

CLAS Faculty Council Minutes 16 Sept 2020 – Submitted by Daniel Contreras

All FC members in attendance, along with Dean Richardson and the Finance Committee chair and co-chairs.

10:40a

Valeria Kleiman moves to approve minutes of previous meetings, Caloiaro seconds; approved

Bogart requests approval for FC meeting schedule for Fall 2020; general consensus

Introductions – new and returning faculty

Request from Associate Dean Pharies for FC to consider posthumous promotion of Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn

- Dean Richardson notes that the Provost stated this has not been done but that there is a posthumous degree program for students; is open to faculty initiative
- Faculty (beginning w/ FC) to take up question of posthumous promotion; from FC would go to Senate Steering Committee
- Need for (brief) written proposal/language for FC etc. to consider
- Nancy Hunt and Ben Smith volunteer to form subcommittee to consider issue and move forward with language to present to FC for next meeting

Comments from Dean Richardson

- Charge(s) for FC in addition to continuing initiatives?
- CLAS lost an employee on Monday 14 Sept – Lily Zhan, IT staff in Biology. Emphasizes pandemic risks (broadly conceived) to members of university community, including particularly mental health.
- CLAS is inviting Health & Wellness to address CLAS bodies about their experiences/observations thus far in the semester
- Mental health & stress will be ongoing challenges this year, for not only students but also faculty and staff

What volume of faculty and staff can Counseling & Wellness and Employee Assistance Program handle? Have they seen volume changes related to Covid?

Caloiaro volunteers to gather more information

Hunt suggests importance of community-building (joy/music/ritual) as part of this effort (constructive action in before problems become acute)

Bloom wonders about efforts to integrate new faculty who may be particularly isolated by pandemic

Importance of maintaining virtual community

Mechanism for young/new faculty to interact outside of departments

These form, in effect, part of mentoring process

Subcommittees

Mentoring

Golombek, Hirschfeld volunteer to join Bogart on subcommittee on mentoring
Virtual alternatives to Keen Center?

Drop-in zoom link? Virtual lunch with colleagues? Low/no investment, some advertising

Alternatives to zoom? Golombeck suggests gather.town.

Performers?

Student Evals

Ongoing FC initiative

What has FC discussed previously, can/should it be brought to Senate?

Charles Baer, Tarek Saab, Martin volunteer to serve on subcommittee

Other activity w/in the university active in addressing this issue?

Survey of Chairs and Associate Deans

Need to improve survey/distribution/interpretation

Martin, Caloiaro, Contreras volunteer to serve on subcommittee

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

Need/opportunity for FC to be involved in this effort?

CLAS has a DEI steering committee, who will be invited to address FC

That committee was originally focused on faculty, this year expands focus to include students

How can faculty support diversification of student body?

Opportunities for the faculty to have input into admissions process?

Retention as important as recruitment

Childcare (especially during Covid-19)? Also eldercare.

Wrap-up comments from Bogart, who invites other pending concerns/questions.

Caloiaro will follow-up with Student Health & Wellness about how faculty can best direct students to health & wellness resources.

Kleiman raises issue of how CLAS will approve creation of a new departments; previous subcommittee has working draft of document

Better connections of FC to CLAS senators?

Bloom raises question of tracking Covid-19 impacts on teaching mission (impacts may be inevitable, but they needn't be normalized); Eric Potsdam will take suggestion to Finance Committee.

12:00p

Meeting adjourns.