

CLAS Faculty Assembly Minutes
November 26, 2018
Keene Faculty Center
submitted by Dr. Alyssa Zucker, Secretary to the CLAS Faculty

1. Dr. Valeria Kleiman, Chair of the Faculty Assembly, called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.
 - Dr. Kleiman presented the following informational items:
 - i. The assembly meets twice a year, once in fall and once in spring
 - ii. The spring assembly focuses more on the work of the standing committees: college finance committee (budget), nominating committee, curriculum committee (new courses, modification of curriculum), T&P committee, undergrad committee, college faculty council
 - iii. The faculty council is engaged in a project: the college wants to put together best practices for mentoring new faculty. Organized focus groups for faculty hired in last 3 years. These will happen during reading days. What things do you need, what have you learned from other places?
 - iv. There are 97 new CLAS faculty this year

2. Dr. David Richardson, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, addressed the faculty.
 - Dr. Richardson welcomed the new faculty and expressed enthusiasm about the large new cohort of CLAS faculty.
 - He introduced the associate deans and staff of the college and they briefly mentioned their areas of responsibility.
 - Dr. Richardson shared his thoughts on the meanings of liberal arts. He suggested that rather than be siloed in the broad divisions of humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and natural sciences, we instead recognize that we are part of something much larger: the natural need for humans to understand their world, place in it, what our future might hold.
 - CLAS faculty, staff, and students are part of the fundamental fabric of UF. Faculty growth has been incredible. In two years' time we will have gone from 670 faculty to 820 faculty, ~150 new faculty lines. This will grow the faculty by 22%, wiping out all losses since 2006. Dean Richardson expressed appreciation to everyone's work on the search committees and encouraged people to rally for more staff support.
 - In terms of student experience, UF is competitive to get into, but has very good tuition value compared to other state university systems. The faculty are excellent. The graduation rate for CLAS majors is approaching 90%. Students could be better prepared for post-graduate life. Beyond 120 started three years ago to address this and get students into learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom. This is ambitious given we have over 10,000 majors. Three

areas where we need faculty help: international experiences, undergraduate research, and internship opportunities. Most students want these, but there aren't enough for all of them. Our alumni are energized by this. The college has developed a new area for alum to focus their personal energy and wealth to support what goes on in this college.

- Our College aspirations are the same as those of the University: we want to be in the national and international conversation. Want to be known, have a leadership role. Individual faculty have reached that, but want to do so as a college.
3. Dr. Mary Watt, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, provided a report from the CLAS Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.
- Dr. Watt thanked Dr. Sharon Austin, who has been the provisional chair of the committee, and Dr. James Essegbey, who is the chair elect.
 - The committee seeks to create an operating system so they are cognizant of diversity and inclusion throughout the college. This year has been productive. They produced a series of best practices in hiring. Also working toward same with retention. Crafted a diversity and inclusion statement; want input on that. Creating a website that will link to resources. Branching out into graduate recruitment to address pipelines.
4. Dr. Michael Martinez, CLAS Parliamentarian, brought up a proposed amendment to the CLAS constitution that had been put forward by the CLAS Constitutional Review Committee.
- The proposed amendment was to change the language about how amendments to the CLAS Constitution can be made, to include balloting by electronic secret ballot. The motivation to do so was because of the difficulty in obtaining a quorum at Assemblies, and thus having a long wait for amendment approval.
 - There were friendly amendments to the wording of the text, which were motioned and seconded, with no further discussion.
 - The committee moved the proposed amendment, with friendly modifications included.
 - The final text before the Assembly pertained to replacing the first paragraph under Article VI Amendments (the second paragraph of Article VI remains the same):
This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds of the votes cast by the College faculty, provided that the amendment shall have been proposed by the Constitution Review Committee and then discussed at a meeting of the College Assembly, and that at least two weeks prior to this meeting of the College Assembly, the faculty shall have received the text of the proposed amendment and notification that it will be discussed at this meeting. Balloting, directed by the Secretary of the Faculty, shall occur by electronic secret ballot or mail secret

ballot no earlier than seven days and no later than thirty days after the meeting of the College Assembly.

- The motion passed by more than 2/3 of the faculty present.
5. Dr. Kleiman invited the new faculty to the dais, where they were introduced to great welcome.
 6. The meeting was adjourned.