

Minutes CLAS Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

160 Pugh Hall, 2:00PM

In attendance: Anthony Gonzalez, Michael Gorham, Youssef Haddad, Selman Hershfield, James Hobert, Jodi Lane, Bonnie Moradi, Ratre Wayland

Meeting called to order at 2:00pm. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. A brief review of the committee's report on OPS spending from April of last year was given.

Dean Richardson then gave a presentation, which is summarized below.

This academic year the college is hiring 64 or 65 new faculty as part of the large University of Florida initiative to increase the number of faculty and in particular the faculty to student ratio. Since there would normally be some faculty leaving or retiring, Dean Richardson has also authorized some faculty searches outside of this new initiative.

Even before this hiring initiative, there was a need for increasing the number of staff to support the faculty. For example, the college's web presence needs to be improved and made more uniform. The Dean explained that it is challenging to find guaranteed recurring funds to hire staff. Nonetheless, he is going to authorize some hires for new staff positions in the Spring semester.

Dean Richardson then reviewed data showing that the college's funding of graduate students is typically below that of our peer institutions. In order to improve the competitiveness of our offers to graduate students, the Provost is providing additional funds starting in the Spring to bring our starting graduate student stipends up to that of our peer institutions. It is anticipated that this program will be continued and hence after several years bring our graduate student funding up to that of our peers.

Dean Richardson also reviewed data showing the degree to which departments use graduate students in teaching varies across the college. There was also data showing the variation in the percentage of graduate students that get Ph.D.'s and the time to degree. He is going to share this information with the graduate school.

The meeting adjourns at 3:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Selman Hershfield on December 1, 2017.