

Minutes CLAS Finance Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 25, 2017 160 Pugh Hall, 12:50 PM

In attendance: Michael Gorham, James Hobert, Jodi Lane, Trysh Travis, Rtree Wayland; Uma Sethuram, Joe Spillane

Meeting called to order at 12:50 pm. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

1. Committee members discussed the financial implications of UF Quest and agreed that, while at this point too little is known to take up the issue in a serious way, should the situation become clearer and/or more urgent, it may behoove the committee to return to the matter prior to the end of the 2017–2018 academic year. Otherwise, it should anticipate the topic occupying a priority position in 2018–2019.
2. The committee returned the question of how CLAS allocates OPS funding to units, and agreed it might be worth seeking input from chairs as to their views of, frustrations with, and desired/recommended improvements to the process. (This could possibly be incorporated into the outreach in #3.)
3. The committee agreed to take up the Dean's request reach out to CLAS chairs about the Provost's requirement that a standard graduate-student FTE of 0.5 be adopted in conjunction with the promised influx of new funding to make graduate stipends competitive with peer universities. The goal would be to get a better sense from departments of 1) the breadth and nature of the concerns about this switch, 2) the problems it might create, and 3) recommended best practices for squaring the two—that is, for abiding by the new policy while at the same time ensuring programs the flexibility they need. The committee agreed that the best way to do this would be for individual committee members to reach out to 2 department chairs each with a list of questions, register their feedback, and work to merge that feedback into a single report. That process will proceed according to the following timeline:
  - By the February 22 meeting:
    - Assign departments to committee members
    - Gather from the Dean's Office whatever new information about the new policy may have come in in the interim
    - Generate a draft list of questions to guide conversations with chairs
  - By the March 22 meeting:
    - Meet with chairs, transcribe responses, and merge into a single document
  - By the April 19 meeting:
    - Draft and approve final report for submission to Dean

Committee members present volunteered for specific departments; Gorham agreed to work with those not present to cover the rest.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by Michael Gorham on January 29, 2018.