

CLAS Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2021

Present:

John Palmer
Tarek Saab
Matthieu Felt
Daniel Talham
Thomas Knight
J Valdes Kroff
Galia Hataav
Chris McCarty
Fahad Qazi
Catherine Tucker (Secretary)

1. Call to order and approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Meeting Called to Order at 3 pm
 - Minutes approved unanimously

2. Discussion of the data in the “Analysis of Departments -JP Modified” spreadsheet.
 - Reminder of OPS fund purposes.
 - Primary purpose of OPS funding is to support undergrad education, usually meaning teaching, but broadly construed given that faculty research activity and certain other tasks support undergrad education.
 - Key variables proposed for consideration to carry out our charge:
 - Number of faculty
 - Number of undergrad students
 - Number of undergrad majors
 - Need clarification on first and second major
 - May not be complete (needs checking)
 - Number of SCH (student credit hours)
 - A better indication than majors for teaching demands on departments
 - Budget
 - Created: SCH/FTE Faculty + Grads
 - Variables for discussion
 - DSP awards and DSP awards per faculty
 - DSP awards help support grad students
 - OPS funds can also support faculty with external grant awards
 - Comparing DSP awards across disciplines poses problems given inherent differences in disciplinary contexts
 - Pending: Data in OPS Budget Requests (forthcoming)
 - The Analysis of Department spreadsheet has certain limitations
 - Some departments offer multiple majors (e.g., Astronomy offers majors in Astronomy and Astrophysics). Figures in the original spreadsheet did not include counts for all majors. Figures have been corrected to include all majors but need checking.
 - The spreadsheet does not reveal /represent varying disciplinary realities and expectations

3. Identification of additional data/info the committee may require.

- FTE assigned to external grants
 - This would reduce FTE denominator in SCH/FTE for fairer estimate of FTE assigned to teaching as a way to tease out FTE dedicated to teaching
 - Treat with caution because departments work in different ways and need to meet varying disciplinary realities
- Dual majors should be added to the count
- Number of degrees granted – may be more reliable than major counts
- Grad students supported by grant funds (rather than OPS).
- Which departments have been returning OPS annually?
- Which departments have been needing additional OPS annually?
- Others? (discussion unfinished)

4. Plans for review of unit OPS budget requests.

- Ideas for next steps will be communicated by email.

5. AOB.

- No additional business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.