

## CLAS Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Friday, April 15, 2022

Present: John Palmer (chair), Dan Talham, Galia Hatav, Thomas Knight, Jorge Valdes Kroff, Matthieu Felt, Faha Qazi (Student Rep), José Miguel Ponciano Castellanos, Chris McCarty (Dean's Office), Uma Sethuram (Dean's Office), Catherine Tucker (Secretary)

Excused: Tarek Saab

Minutes:

1. Call to order and approval of minutes of the previous meeting.
  - Meeting called to order at 3:01 pm
  - Approval of minutes from April 1.
2. Finalization of the committee's report to the CLAS Dean.
  - Palmer shares a recommendation from Talham to add a clear statement of our top three priorities to the report:
    1. Helping to deliver undergraduate SCHs
    2. Support Graduate education
    3. Facilitate faculty efforts to secure external funding
  - The committee discusses the importance of transparency of the process, and recommends sharing the report with the CLAS faculty council.
  - While the committee supported sharing the final report openly, there was lack of clarity on whether all of the resulting spreadsheets should be shared. Palmer suggests that decisions about sharing spreadsheets will be discussed with the dean. Some of the information could be sensitive.
  - Tucker raises the issue that in the Stage 1 and Stage 2 processes, additions to OPS budgets were not included even when the teams noted certain historical inequities and needs (e.g., related to growth) that merited OPS budget increases.
    - A particular case is Women's Studies. Its OPS budget has not been increased since the program was created, and it is currently operating on special funding from the Dean's Office to teach a number of its courses. The unit's OPS would nonetheless would be cut under the committee's mandate. Since that unit will soon transition from a program to a department, Tucker and Palmer recommend that its OPS budget be increased appropriately at that transition.
  - McCarty notes that increasing any budget must come from somewhere. However, he adds that the Dean of CLAS and others in the Dean's office realize the severity of the cuts. They have been in discussion with the Provost to point out the deleterious consequences for undergraduate and graduate education. In response to reductions made to OPS for next year, certain units have already cut their course offerings, which could impact student graduation rates since some required courses are affected.

- Thus the CLAS Administration is in agreement with the committee that higher level UF Administration should find a way to provide an OPS budget increment for CLAS to mitigate the potentially crippling cuts currently being imposed.
- The committee also discussed some tangential issues that could be relevant to the next year's committee.

3. AOB

- McCarty and Sethuram express thanks to the committee for their efforts.
- The committee members thank John Palmer for his leadership and dedication throughout the process.

4. The meeting adjourns at 3:46pm.