

Faculty Council Meeting 9/10/2021

Welcome John Palmer from Finance Committee

I) Ben noted our tasks for the year:

1) Revitalizing the humanities in CLAS

Trysh Travis as new Assoc Dean working with humanities will focus on revitalizing humanities in CLAS while continuing her work on UF Quest

Trish will join us at another meeting to provide some details on those initiatives.

Ben asked the member of the Council on Humanities, Caroline and Rory, to take the lead on this initiative.

2) Collective Bargaining Agreement—every unit must conduct a thorough review of its by-laws this academic year.

Mary Watt is heading up this project and would like a member of faculty council to be involved as perhaps to guide/give best practices on this.

Volunteers—Molly Gardner will be our representative and Ben will send her contact info along to Mary Watt.

II) Discussion: Are there things we'd like to collectively work on this semester as a group?

--Stephanie noted we need to approve the minutes from last year's final meeting and moved that we approve minutes from last meeting. Ben seconded. Passed.

--Tom brought up the possibility of discussing *admin issues in response to Covid* if needed going forward.

Dan brought up *funding of grad students/grad school/recruiting* (faculty meeting evaluated on this). Agreed to have Dan put some thoughts together and then we'll re-visit as a committee next time. John as member of FC expressed that this committee will be putting together their committee's findings about grad school so reinforced that this was a good issue.

--Rory—have you discussed questions about *student evals of faculty*. Ben expressed this has 3 components: 1) every faculty member on any track can submit a covid statement (such as learning curve of hyflex); 2) chair can pull out components; 3) guidelines of best practices to use these statements

Paula—could we address the issue of student evals and would there be useful to workshop this for faculty. But Rory said was just seeking clarity from above on this. Selman agreed with this.

Tom expressed confusion about student eval issues and methods of teaching. Stephanie gave some background –how are evals going to be used for promotion/tenure

--Ben—reopening of testing center at stadium, due to discussion with DR

Actions: Dan will send his thoughts together on grad school issue for us to peruse and determine whether and how to proceed; Get explicit guidelines from Dean about student evals use given current conditions (this was answered once DR joined us)

III) Dean Richardson joined conversation: 1:47

Teaching assessments as imperfect so faculty need to understand the interpretations of the evals as to people in charge of faculty to know the value/limits of these assessments.

Advised but didn't happen—would like the college to put out a statement of how these evals should be used/not used to advise chairs and directors

**DR's concerns:**

**Main concern:** *What kind of CLAS curricular reform needed?* Student experience in our college is rather fragmented due to the number of credits they are bringing in. Don't form cohorts. Quest is one mechanism create those cohorts. So would like to have a conversation across this year across constituents to find out where faculty would be interested in going and motivations and changing what we do at the college level.

Dean suggested 3 -6 additional credit work—just to give a sense of the magnitude of the issue.

Ben: Do you envision change at department level or college level? Good question to pursue.

Selman: Connected to Quest 3 (experiential)? Answer seems to be a yes.

Action: Ben suggested bringing in Trysh next meeting with DR to cross pollinate humanities issue with Quest/CLAS issue.

Adjourned at 2:03