CLA Senate Agenda

December 2021 | Zoom

1. **Approval of Agenda –** Unanimously approved
2. **Approval of Minutes -** Unanimously approved
3. **Dean’s report**

Three planks – repeated:

Student success:

Swat analysis of advancing student success from student coffee.

New and more intense marketing

14 new FYS – moved smaller classes to conference rooms

Developing

From Psychology departments – URBest developments.

Advising caseloads are going up – monitoring student satisfaction and needs.

Planning for instruction – looking at curriculum – needs and personnel - alternative scheduling pilot. Pedagogy should be the defining element.

Enhancing faculty growth and development.

Pedagogical funds open to all faculty

Deans travel fund open

CLA support for grant applications – hire a student to identify grants.

Standardize the base of the faculty funds

Hires - Think about explicit links to student success and course “sequencing”

Great college – but we might be under resourced

**Questions**

women and faculty of color report?

Under resourced – yes – but hope expressed that Dean includes time cost of grant applications and initiatives in calculation of “success”.

“Right sizing the college” – what does that mean? cutting courses? Not austerity but reallocation…

What is the standard floor for new faculty – not yet decided.

Student disappointment with the P/F/W back to Nov rather than last day of class.

Student health support this semester has been hard as the counselling and health services appears to be overworked. Response: More UR-Best workshops.

1. **Moderator’s report**
2. Follow-up on the Dean’s report:
   1. Appeals on the applications for remote – several has been granted “hybrid” option.
   2. Question of inviting the provost?
3. Agenda item to add: Spend a moment on Faculty council discussion and issues around eroding faculty governance.
4. Course description on syllabus MUST match WISER description. It is allowed to add more paragraphs on the syllabus, but WISER description must be included. Syllabi are public records. *(Tell departments and discuss if some descriptions need to be reworded. Around a 6-week turnaround time for getting changes though governance.)*
   1. Q: all syllabi – yes.
5. New and older programs might not be showing up in wiser in the right way. Degree audit roadmaps reveal these problems. *(Ask in the departments with new programs and minors so we can understand the extend of the problem. Email Sarah Hamblin with any problems).*
6. **Proposals from AAC**
   1. New courses
      1. HIST 186: Road to Black Lives Matter – Approved unanimously
   2. Changes to existing courses
      1. WGS 347 – typo comment - Approved unanimously
      2. ENGL 334 - Approved unanimously
      3. ENGL 331 - Approved unanimously
7. **Old Business**
   1. COVID concerns and spring Senate modality
      1. Problems with contact tracing. Lack of notifications about positive cases in class.
      2. Requiring boosters? Unclear but Amherst moving ahead with requirements.
      3. Senate meetings will be kept on Zoom for S22. At 2:30-4pm. First meeting early Feb. Attendance will be kept in the Spring.
8. **New Business**
   1. Governance review for changes to course modality
      1. Should a change of modality go through governance? Against: what does it matter – the content is the same. For: this is a significant change that the college should keep track of. Some debate but most senators support not putting online courses through governance.
      2. Curriculog issue – more paperwork and documents appear to be necessary.
   2. Dean’s initiatives: Graduate education, diversifying faculty, sabbaticals and fellowships
      1. Beyond our very clear barriers of low pay what are the worries? Worry that faculty spending time on fellowships and grad courses risks weakening the undergraduate if these does not come with extra TT hires.
      2. Comments from psychology – see attached. Funding is at the core. Retention – hope that admin. Look at previous reports. Mentoring is quite significant time burden and support for mentors.
         1. Comments: English department uses point systems for thesis supervision and independent studies. 7 points yield a CLR. Negotiate with dean.
         2. Note from several departments that for small departments taking course releases can be quite hard and often has curricular cost. Pressure to not take leaves or fellowships.
         3. Inconsistency around CLRs – perhaps we should ask dean about.
      3. Comments from Sociology:

Here are 3 concerns from sociology (1) issue of hiring—our undergrad and grad teaching needs do not overlap, and we need more lines (2) Inadequate supports in the Office of Graduate Studies and Admissions. OGSA is extremely understaffed, creating tremendous pressure on the staff in that office. As a result, much administrative work falls to departments, GPD’s, and departmental support staff. It also leads to a stressful and confusing process for applicants, which in turn makes it more difficult to recruit students. (3) Rigid minimum enrollment policies. The provost’s office has rigidly enforced course enrollment minimums (N=8) in ways that show a disregard for program integrity or student learning. Programs are in a bind in that they cannot admit larger cohorts with existing financial and personnel resources available to support them. Yet programs must run required courses on schedule to ensure student progress. In several cases, required courses have been cancelled by administration, inhibiting student progress.

Other issues – more equitable labor issues more broadly. Desires that the equity and service report to be shared.

* 1. NEW ITEM: Faculty council meeting discussion of the “extended” Management Dean unilaterally decided by the provost. Overwhelming power takeover – with deans merely “bridging”. President of FSU suggested attempt at university wise meeting. Erosion of trust among faculty – not willingness to serve on now clearly impotent committees.

1. **Adjourn – 30 min late.**