

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Members present: Larry Lombard, Smiti Gupta, Gil Paz, Leisa Kauffmann, Eric Kessell, Christopher Trentacosta, Yuson Jung, Andrew Newman, Eric Ash, Pramod Khosla, Robert Harr, Hien Nguyen, John Klein, Alina Cherry, Ed Golenberg, Zach Brewster, Fernando Charro.

Attending: Stephanie Hartwell, Ken Jackson, Claudio Verani, Lori Pile, Caroline Brzuchowski.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The minutes approved from the meeting on May 5, 2022.

Election of council secretary – Smiti Gupta was nominated and elected as council Secretary for the academic year. FC nominated and voted on the following to serve on the curriculum committee: Larry Lombard, Philosophy, Alina Cherry, CMLLC, Yuson Jung, Anthropology, Eric Kessell, Public Health, and Corinne Forys.

CLAS enrollment and retention: Enrollment is down 8%, a discussion on retention of students, the CLAS recruitment committee welcome suggestions, the dean also discussed recruitment during the summer's department budget meetings.

A dean's office initiative for mid-career support of the faculty- monies were distributed to the departments and need to be spent before the end of the fiscal year.

It was mentioned to make the FC more open to all faculty via Zoom, this will be tabled for further discussion.

New faculty workshop with the dean's office to be held on September 21, 2022.

Dean's report

In CLAS, 40% are transfer students, the college transfer policy will be discussed further in the coming months, the dean mentioned that transfer students from community colleges have higher graduation rate, than first time freshman.

DEI Committee – During this academic year, we are emphasizing helping students with disabilities

What is WSU identity, we are: R1, public, assessable, this was mentioned as it pertains to recruitment issues.

Recruitment Committee – We are working on the retention of CLAS students

Strategic plan – Running a bit behind, the town hall will be held during fall term, many responses from the students and faculty, and it mirrors the university plan, but will include specific items for CLAS

Budget hearings for each department were held this summer.

Selective salary – Faculty want to know their scores, and the department chairs can share scores with the faculty members, the dean's office does not have the capacity to do so.

Updates from Claudio Verani

Met with the Michigan Science Center and WSU CLAS faculty to discuss collaborations, a workshop is being planned.

A Humanities Commons will be located on the second floor of the Undergraduate Library, similar to the STEM commons with dedicated areas for collaboration, seminars, etc., partnering with the Humanities Center.

Grant writing workshop for the physical sciences and mathematics will be starting at the end of September and continue through this fall term. Stipends are given to faculty that participate in this workshop.

Updates from Ken Jackson

The new faculty workshop and department chairs workshop will be held in September and October, covering such topics as promotion and tenure, faculty governance and SMART path will be presented to the chairs.

Updates from Lori Pile

Curriculum committee has already started to review items, and the process was discussed for program changes, new programs, items brought to assembly and then to the Board of Governors.

Ahmad Ezzeddine has an initiative for students needing financial aid assistance in order to complete their degrees in a timely manner.