

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Faculty Assembly

DRAFT
Minutes
January 27, 2016

Present: Björn Anderson, Elana Buch, Jennifer Buckley, Amy Butler, Peter Chanthanakone, Robert Cook, Roxanna Curto, Rodica Curtu, Douglas Dion, Aniruddha Dutta, Russell Ganim, Elena Gavrusseva, Brian Gollnick, Sabine Gölz, Shawn Goodman, Michael Hill, Benjamin Hunnicutt, Erin Irish, Anita Jung, Philip Kaaret, Surjit Khurana, Randall McEntaffer, Bob McMurray, Yasemin Mohammad, Thomas Oates, Nathan Platte, Amy Poremba, Yasmine Ramadan, Tlaloc Rivas, Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez, Richard Roller, Michael Sakamoto, Christine Shea, Steven Spangler, Glenn Storey, James Tamerius, Andrew Todd, Richard Turner, Kasturi Varadarajan, Stephen Warren, Frank Weirich, Marc Wold, Rita Zajacz

Absent (Excused): Kung-Sik Chan, Emilie Destruel-Johnson, Melissa Duff, Amanda Haes, Joni Kinsey, Lisa Schlesinger, Carrie Swanson, Stephen Voyce, Katherine Wolfe

Absent: Brian Ekdale, Kyungmin Kim, Wenfang Tang, Ion Bogdan Vasi

Guests: Barry Butler, Steve Duck, Andrew Forbes, Cornelia Lang, Don Szeszycki

CLAS Administration: Jennifer Bertrand, Jon Burke

1. Professor Russell Ganim, Chair of the Faculty Assembly, announced that FA meeting on March 30, 2016, will include updates from Faculty Assembly subcommittees, and a visit from Faculty Senate officers.
2. The minutes from December 16, 2015, were approved.
3. Executive Vice President and Provost Barry Butler visited Faculty Assembly and reviewed TIER (Transparent, Inclusive Efficiency Review) progress, strategic planning, FY2017 budget, and answered questions from the floor.

By the end of January, the Office of the Provost will respond to recommendations made by Pappas Consulting Group and Ad Astra in fall 2015 reports to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, regarding space utilization and course scheduling, e-learning, and student success. Plans include making better use of departmentally-scheduled facilities, increased coordination with other regent's institutions related to e-learning, and a focus on degree completion.

Provost Butler stated that the University of Iowa will have a new strategic plan in place by July 1. The recently formed Strategy Implementation Team, comprised of faculty, staff, student, and administration representatives, will drive an ongoing, active process to identify, prioritize, and recommend actions on institutional initiatives to be accomplished over the next five years.

The FY2017 budget will be impacted by openings of several buildings in the coming year, employee benefits expenses, and a low resident tuition rate compared to peer institutions. The university has requested budget increases in several areas, and

President Bruce Harreld will address the Education Appropriations Subcommittee of the Iowa Legislature in February, however the FY2017 budget will not be finalized for several months.

4. Professor Cornelia Lang, Department of Physics & Astronomy, and Professor Andrew Forbes, Department of Biology, presented information about [Big Ideas courses](#), an innovative, faculty-driven effort for interdisciplinary, interactive teaching of general education courses. Five Big Ideas courses were taught in fall 2015 (Origins of Life in the Universe – Part 1, People and the Environment, History and Science of Oil, Policy Matters, and Creativity for a Lifetime), with enrollments of approximately 80 students per course. Future goals include 12 Big Ideas courses covering all areas of general education, with enrollments between 80-200 to serve one-quarter of incoming first-year students. The Big Ideas Faculty Learning Community, sponsored by the Center for Teaching, will put out a call for new courses, with plans to formalize the program and seek external funding.
5. Professor Bob McMurray, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, made a motion for Faculty Assembly to recommend that CLAS Executive Committee include Lecturers in the definition of faculty when EC revises the CLAS *Manual of Procedure* this spring. After brief discussion, the following motion was adopted:

The Faculty Assembly formally requests that the Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences, working with the Deans, revise the CLAS manual of operations of the College to include lecturers as members of the CLAS faculty (as defined in [Section 1](#)). The Faculty Assembly requests that the Executive Committee and the Deans propose changes throughout the manual to reorganize college governance in a way that reflects the new status of lecturers while also maintaining and enhancing effective faculty governance. The Faculty Assembly makes this recommendation with the understanding that these changes to the manual will be debated and voted on by the Assembly before final adoption.

6. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Glenn Storey, Departments of Classics and Anthropology
Secretary of the Faculty Assembly