The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Faculty Assembly

Minutes
December 16, 2015


Absent (Excused): Björn Anderson, Elena Gavruseva, Amanda Haes, Joni Kinsey, Bob McMurray, Amy Poremba, Yasmine Ramadan, Ana Rodríguez-Rodríguez, Michael Sakamoto, Christine Shea, James Tamerius


CLAS Administration: Jennifer Bertrand, Jon Burke, Joe Kearney

1. The minutes from November 11, 2015, were approved.

2. Professor Russell Ganim, Chair of the Faculty Assembly, announced that a new advisory group for the Dean has been formed, comprised of a DEO representative from each of four areas: Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts, and Natural & Mathematical Sciences. The DEOs selected also will conduct small group DEO meetings previously chaired by Associate Deans. The Chair also announced that the College has formed a TIER (Transparent Inclusive Efficiency Review) subcommittee.

3. Associate Dean for Research & Infrastructure, and the Arts Joe Kearney, reviewed an early draft of the new CLAS Strategic Plan and answered questions from the floor. He encouraged faculty to submit suggestions, comments and criticisms to him. He plans to bring a further draft to the College’s elected committees in the spring.

4. Reports from Faculty Assembly Subcommittees
   a. Faculty Assembly Diversity Committee
      Professor Michael Hill, Departments of English and African American Studies, noted that the inaugural meeting of the College’s Committee on Diversity was held today, and discussed the possibility of a university-wide campus climate survey on diversity. In addition to its interest in evaluating collegiate data from such a survey, the Faculty Assembly Diversity Committee’s other priorities are cross-campus collaboration, and examining the College’s commitment to diversity from a curricular and programming standpoint.

   b. Collegiate Budget and Allocation
      Professor Randall McEntaffer, Department of Physics & Astronomy, said the subcommittee has discussed the College’s budget and related processes with the
Dean and collegiate budget officers. The College has returned $7.5 million to central administration in the past five years, which is driving budget difficulties. The subcommittee will work to obtain and utilize data necessary to give faculty a better understanding of university operations. It plans to meet again in January.

c. Shared Governance Structures within CLAS
   No report

d. Role and Status of Lecturers
   Professor Robert Cook, School of Music, said the subcommittee has decided to wait to assess new university faculty rank schemes, currently under review by Faculty Senate, before submitting a proposal for changes to the status of Lecturers in CLAS, as had been discussed at the November Faculty Assembly meeting.

e. Family Policies
   Professor Margaret Beck, Department of Anthropology, said the subcommittee is working to determine how to collect data regarding parental leave and accommodation, and compare with peers. Anecdotal information suggests that official policy leaves room for individual negotiation, potentially allowing disparate treatment across departments in this area.

f. Vision and Outreach
   No report

g. Free Speech on Campus
   Professor Katherine Wolfe, School of Music, briefly reviewed several areas of the University’s Operations Manual but noted there are no university policies specifically addressing academic freedom and freedom of speech. She stated faculty can take a more direct role in affirming the value of free speech. The subcommittee is examining outside sources, including the University of Chicago’s Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression and AAUP statements, to determine action items.

5. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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