

Eastern Michigan University
College of Arts & Sciences
College Advisory Council

Minutes

February 21, 2019, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
219 Pray-Harrold

Present: Dove (PSY), Jones (WGST), Garrido (WL), Cass (M&D), Pressley-Sanon (AAAS), Stype (Econ), Acton (English), Karpiak (SAC), Dumitrascu (Math), Sheerin (P&A), Graves (Bio), Greenwald (ENVI), Clark (G&G), Murchison (Arts DH), Sambrook (Sci DH), Heller (Dean), Pernecky (AD), McCurdy (H&P), Henschen (Poli Sci), Snyder (Chem), Atzmon (A&D), Kindred (CMTA)

I. Call to Order – meeting was called to order by Chair, Jenny Kindred, at 3:30pm

II. Approval of Minutes (January 24, 2019) – There were two minor adjustments made to these minutes, including a typo and a misspelled name, and then these minutes were approved by a vote of 12-0-2.

III. Guest: Matt Cook, Co-chair Diversity and Inclusion Committee – There was an update given on the work of this committee to date. Stephen Jefferson is co-chairing this committee, along with Matt Cook. Prof. Cook reported that the committee did not get as much done as they would have liked in the fall, but they are now working on bylaws and becoming a more official committee instead of an ad hoc committee. There is a strong commitment to this committee from more than half the departments in CAS. There are now three subcommittees working under the umbrella of this committee: one is working on bylaws and getting more of a website presence, one is working on event planning and getting support of students, staff and faculty, and the third group is an assessment group. The assessment group is just getting started regarding capturing some data about campus climate with regard to diversity issues. The committee is also discussing a final draft of a statement to the most recent racist event on campus. The committee would like to streamline this process in the future so that statements may be made more immediately. The committee is also trying to figure out what their role is regarding providing input to the Dean. Jenny Kindred will work with this committee to keep the lines of communication open between CAC and the Diversity committee, along with other committees that are working on issues within CAS. The only other college that has a diversity and inclusion committee is the college of Education, so this committee will look to that committee for bylaw information and so on.

IV. Sub Committee Recommendations

- Arts Report (February 14, 2019) – Howard Cass gave the Arts report. Two guests visited the Arts committee to discuss proposals. Several proposals were approved, some with comments and suggestions. One was tabled pending the decision from the Sciences committee. Other proposals were tabled due to lack of information. The Arts committee also discussed the role of Evan Finley in working with CAC, the new interdisciplinary award from the Dean's office, and whether course program deletions will continue to be reviewed by the Arts committee.

There was a motion to separate the Quantitative Economics BS and ESSC 208 course from this report due to discrepancies between the Arts and Science committee recommendations and this motion passed by a vote of 14-0-0.

There was then some further discussion about the urban studies minor because of some concerns the SAC department still has over the internship portion of this program. There was then a motion to separate out this minor from the Arts report as well and that motion passed by a vote of 16-0-0.

There was then a motion to accept the remaining Arts report and that motion passed by a vote of 16-0-0.

- Sciences Report (February 14, 2019) – Natalie Dove gave the Sciences report, which included several proposal approvals, but included two rejections, namely, the Quantitative Economics major and the Undergraduate Certificate in Business Analytics. Various concerns were noted about these two rejected proposals.

There was a motion to separate the Quantitative Economics BS, ESSC 208, and the Urban Studies minor from the Sciences report because of the discrepancy between the Arts and Sciences committee recommendations regarding these proposals, and that motion passed by a vote of 14-0-0. The resulting Sciences report was accepted by a vote of 14-0-0.

There was then further discussion regarding ESSC 208. Arts was concerned that the deletion of this course would affect the Teacher Education students because this class is listed as an elective for those students. In addition, there was concern about the lack of a faculty vote count in the proposal. Christine Clark noted that the faculty vote count was, in fact, included in Curriculog; G&G unanimously approved this course. Beth Henschen then asked whether there is a policy about deleting courses if there will be an impact on another department. There are course deletions so rarely that it seems there is no procedure in place. There was a motion to table this course until G&G can let Teacher Education know that the course is being deleted, and this motion passed by a vote of 12-0-2.

There was then further discussion on the Urban Studies minor. Howard Cass asked a question regarding whether students outside of SAC could ever fulfill SAC's internship process, and the SAC representative explained that they often have trouble filling the internship for their own students, let alone these minor students. SAC likes to have students in their internships that they already know and have a relationship with. There was then a motion to table this proposal until further discussions on this matter could be had between the SAC department and the Urban Studies minor initiators. This passed by a vote of 13-0-0.

There was then discussion regarding the Quantitative Economics BS degree. Amanda Stype from the Economics department addressed the concerns that the Sciences committee had about this proposal. Several concerns were raised; for one, Science committee members felt the proposed program is much the same as the current Economics major. Amanda noted that the economics department wants an offering that is more STEM related, in which a student can get a BS degree, not a BA. In addition, Computer Science would like to have a conversation about this degree with the Economics department before it moves forward. There was then a motion to table this proposal so that this conversation between Economics and Computer Science can happen and so that a member of the Economics department may visit the next Sciences committee meeting and this motion passed by a vote of 14-0-0.

V. Discussion items

- Final GA Allocation - revised – The final allocation of GAs report was distributed by Jenny Kindred. It was necessary for the Dean's Office to adjust the personnel committee's recommendations in this area because the GA funding was cut by more than what Wade Tornquist had projected. The personnel committee had worked under the assumption that CAS would only be cut by 5%, but the actual cut was more like 10%. As such, the Dean's office had to cut another 6.5 GA positions. Dean Pernecky explained that in order to make these further cuts, the Dean's office looked at GA eligibility as compared to the number of students in the department who actually had GA positions. Because of this metric, many of the cuts hit Science departments a bit harder than Arts departments. In addition, anyone who had been given an additional GA position above and beyond what they previously had were also cut back to their original amount. It was noted, however, that if psychology receives more grants that can support doctoral fellows, more general GA positions can be reallocated throughout the college, but Dean Pernecky does not know when this information might be available. The English department expressed concern that some students in their department were partially through their Masters program and now have lost their GA position. This will be an ongoing conversation among departments and the Dean's office.
- Faculty Position Requests – CAC Personnel Committee Report and Rankings – Jenny Kindred then passed out the Personnel Committee's recommendation for Faculty Position Requests for the next academic year. The committee ranked the top ten positions with the expectation that we will receive about four positions for next year. Chair Kindred explained the process whereby the personnel committee ranked the proposals. This ranking then serves as input to our own Dean's office regarding how we would like the faculty hires to go once allocated. There was then a motion to accept these rankings as input to the Dean's office and this motion passed by a vote of 14-0-1.

VI. Dean's remarks – Dean Pernecky explained to us that a 6% cut is expected for next year's fiscal year budget to all the colleges. We have not yet received our individual allocation but 6% of our budget would be about a 3.3 million dollar loss. We have already cut some of this budget in the form of lost or separated GA and PTL positions, but we are still about one million dollars short of this 6% cut. Conversations will ensue with CAC budget committee regarding other places to cut.

Dean Baker reported that the Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been working hard to respond to the racist incident that occurred on campus several days ago. The most difficult challenge has been in ascribing motivation behind the event that occurred. Lauren London, our legal counsel, has also been involved in this conversation.

Dean Baker also thanked everyone for their work on program mapping. There are four departments that have not sent their maps yet, but those will be forthcoming. He asked us to keep considering program obstacles and barriers as we think through our various programs. This will evidence to the provost that we are thinking about our programs and doing some in house cleaning of our own programs.

Dean Baker's final point was regarding the assessment of student learning. There is another assessment report due in three years, but Dean Baker asked that if parties have continued ideas about the assessment process, they would please contact Cynthia Macknish in World Languages.

There was then some discussion regarding the purpose and audience for the statement the Diversity and Inclusion committee is drafting regarding the recent racist incident, and Dean Baker addressed that question by stating that this statement will just be for members of the College of Arts and Sciences. The President's commission addressed the incident campus-wide.

VII. Chair's remarks – Chair Kindred reported that the work of the Personnel committee is finished for this year. The budget committee will continue to work but will not be providing anything back to the full body that will be considered official input to the Dean's office.

VIII. Faculty remarks – None.

IV. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned by Chair Kindred at 4:59pm

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Natalie Dove, CAC Secretary for 2018-2019