

Eastern Michigan University
College of Arts & Sciences
College Advisory Council

Minutes

September 3, 2020 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: Pressly-Sanon (AAAS), Dove (PSY), Higgins (H&P), Argeros (SAC), Graves (BIO), Ingram (DH-Sci), Cass (M&D), Henschen (PSci), Wannamaker (ENG), Clark (G&G), Stype (ECON), Murchison (DH-Arts), Panja (COSC), Johnson (M&D), Britton (Math), Wilmes (Chemistry), Greenwald (ENVI), Garrido (WL), Jones (WGST), Sheerin (P&A), Molloy (Art), Baker (AD), Pernecky (AD), Heller (Dean)

Absent: Kindred (CMTA)

- I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by Peter Higgins
- II. Approval of Minutes (April 16, 2020) – Meeting minutes from this meeting were approved by a vote of 12-0-4
- III. CAC elections
 - a. Vice Chair (one year) – Peter Higgins was nominated for the position of Vice Chair and was elected by acclimation.
 - b. Secretary (one year) – Natalie Dove was nominated for the position of Secretary and was elected by acclimation.
 - c. Budget Committee (one year) – one Arts, one Sciences – After some discussion from Dean Pernecky regarding what the budget committee would be charged with this year, Christine Clark (Sci) and Melissa Jones (Arts) were elected to this committee by acclimation.
 - d. Personnel Committee (one year) – one Arts, one Sciences – Dean Heller discussed the charges of the Personnel Committee this year, including some immediate needs for Faculty Position Request considerations. Annette Wannamaker and Jim Sheerin were nominated and elected by acclimation.
- IV. URSLC Elections
 - a. SRA, two-year term (2020 – 2022), one arts, one sciences
Nominees from Arts included: Mary Elizabeth Murphy (WGST), who was elected by acclimation
Nominees from Sciences included: Natalie Dove (PSY), who was elected by acclimation
Current reps for 2019 – 2021: Eric Paradis (P&A) and Xianghong Feng (SAC)
 - b. FRF, two-year term (20 – 22), one arts, one sciences
Nominees from Arts included: Meg Dobbins (ENG), who was elected by acclimation
Nominees from Sciences included: Thomas Mast (BIO), who was elected by acclimation
Current reps for 2019 – 2021: Nancy Bryk (G&G) and Jon Carter (CMTA)
- V. Grad Council Elections: two-year term (20 – 22), one *social sciences*, one *humanities*

Current reps for 19-21: *Natural Sciences* - Tamara Loverich (PSY) and *Arts*- Deron Overpeck (CMTA)

For social sciences: Trisha McTague was nominated and elected by acclimation.

For humanities: Jill Dieterle was nominated and elected by acclimation.

- VI. Discussion item: Faculty Position Requests for 2020-21 – to be reviewed again in light of VERIP – Dean Heller again discussed the immediate need for departments to reconsider their faculty position requests in light of VERIP and other (possibly) new considerations. Setting forth a timeline for these discussions is the preliminary goal for now. Dean Heller has shared information on this with the department heads and directors already, but she will send out a message to all DHs and directors asking them to get changes and new faculty position proposals to the Dean's office by 9/14. She would then schedule meetings with the personnel committee, with the hope that the full CAC could discuss this during the 9/24 meeting. A question was asked regarding the positions that were already approved – will these still be approved? Will we be adjusting our rankings in light of new information? These are all things that must be considered.
- VII. Discussion item: Inclusion of adopted draft diversity statement into CAS mission statement – It was stated that a draft of this statement was previously approved as a standalone statement, but now we are talking about whether this statement should be incorporated into our mission statement. There were some comments about the word usage within and the clarity of the statement. There was a concern that highbrow language is making the statement inaccessible to certain populations.

There was also a comment about the length of the statement as compared to the rest of the mission statement – if this statement is half of the statement as a whole, does the rest of the statement get downplayed? Would a fragment of this statement be more appropriate to include? Dean Heller does not feel that the length of the statement is a factor for various reasons, which she outlined.

There was then some confusion about whether the version shared is the final, approved version. Dean Baker clarified that the version shared was not meant to be placed right within the CAS mission statement we already have word for word. It seems as though multiple committees are working toward similar statements, which might be leading to some of the confusion. CAS has a diversity and inclusion committee, and the university has a counsel on this as well. Dean Baker believes that continuing to discuss the statement precludes a statement from getting posted and published at all, which may be concerning. Someone then suggested that maybe the diversity statement should be its own point on the website, which may solve some of the problems discussed.

The point was then again raised that perhaps we should check to ensure that we have the most recent version of the diversity and inclusion statement from the committee. While we were talking about these concerns, Dean Heller did some checking and clarified that the version we were reading was, in fact, the most recent one. Vice Chair Higgins suggested that perhaps the D&I committee should send us a draft of the most recent statement and note where they would like to see the diversity and inclusion portion in the mission statement, but Dean Baker clarified that he believes it is Dean Heller's choice regarding where the diversity statement goes on our website, as the placement of the statement was not part of the diversity and inclusion committee's charge.

There was then a motion to approve this diversity and inclusion statement to be placed below the mission statement on our CAS website, pending word from the diversity and inclusion committee on the final wording of the statement, and this motion passed by a vote of 10-0-4.

- VIII. Dean's Remarks – Dean Heller welcomed everyone back and said she is looking forward to working with us again this year.

Dean Pernecky followed up on one item regarding GA allocations – last time GAs were allocated, applications for GA requests were due from CAS departments to the Dean's office by mid October. Wade Tornquist needs the GA allocations by 12/7 this year, so Dean Pernecky is thinking about having the GA applications due by 10/16 this year, or thereabouts. Dean Pernecky will also start to put together some meeting dates for subcommittee meetings. He also noted that enrollments are looking as good as can be expected. We are still waiting on state appropriations for budget, but he is assuming we will have a similar discretionary budget as we had last year.

Dean Baker also wanted to thank the faculty for their flexibility in getting ready for the semester. Michael Tew has also convened another committee to help think about resources faculty will need to facilitate online teaching. This committee would like students to feel that we are doing the best we can supporting them while teaching courses online. If anyone has suggestions for what we need for better online teaching, please contact either Jessica Elton or Harriet Lindsay, who are on this committee. These things are helpful for Peggy Liggitt in the FDC and Bill Jones in IT to know as well. Lastly, if your course is asynchronous, you should not be having mandatory Zoom meetings at specific meeting times. You may have Zoom meetings that are optional and recorded to be shared for students to access at a later time. There was then a question raised about whether recorded class conversations should require a waiver due to privacy issues – students may not want the things that they share to be recorded and distributed. It was recommended that students give anonymous consent to have their contributions recorded and potentially shared. Another comment about putting statements regarding privacy, recording and so on, on syllabi was also made. Dean Baker stated that he was not clear on the legalities of these issues, but that they are important.

- IX. Chair's Remarks – Vice Chair Higgins encouraged new CAC members to read the College Input Document and our bylaws on our website so that they can better understand our charges and our procedures.
- X. Faculty Remarks – We wanted to thank Dean Heller and our chair, Jenny Kindred, for meeting over the summer so that faculty could continue to be apprised of what was happening and new things that the Dean's office became aware of in nearly real time. We appreciate the open lines of communication over the summer.
- XI. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm, by Vice Chair Peter Higgins

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Natalie Dove, CAC Secretary, 2020-2021