

Eastern Michigan University  
College of Arts & Sciences  
College Advisory Council

Minutes

September 24, 2020 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: Dove (PSY), Henschen (PLSC), Kindred (CMTA, Chair), Stype (ECON), Panja (COSC), Higgins (H&P), Wilmes (CHEM), Jones (WGST), Argeros (SOC), Britton (Math/Stat), Wannamaker (ENG), Johnson (M&D), Sheerin (P&A), Greenwald (BIO), Pressley-Sanon (AAAS), Molloy (SAD), Ingram (Sci DH), Garrido (WL), Heller (Dean), Baker (AD), Pernecky (AD), Murchison (Arts DH), Gellasch (G&G)

- I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 3:31pm by Chair, Jenny Kindred
- II. Approval of Minutes (September 3, 2020) – Motion to approve these minutes passed by a vote of 17-0-0
- III. Introduction of new members: New members from Computer Science (Panja), English (Wannamaker), Music and Dance (Johnson), and Sociology (Argeros) introduced themselves
- IV. Sub Committee Recommendations
  - Arts Report (September 10, 2020) – Arts did not elect a chair as of yet. There were also a few courses that were not approved by Arts. In some cases, the changes needed have happened since that meeting. There was a motion to separate DTC 415 from the Arts report since Science approved it and Arts did not (due to some concerns with the course description) and that passed by a vote of 17-0-0. The remaining Arts report was passed by a vote of 17-0-0.
  - Sciences Report (September 10, 2020) - There was a motion to separate DTC 415 from the Sciences report since Science approved it and Arts did not and that passed by a vote of 17-0-0. The remaining Sciences report was passed by a vote of 17-0-0.
- V. Discussion and Action item: Faculty Position Requests for 2020-21 – to be reviewed again in light of VERIP

Chair Kindred showed the position rankings that were approved last semester. Personnel committee has decided to expand the list of ranked positions to 12 instead of 10 due to VERIP losses and the desire to send a message to the broader university administration that CAS needs more positions than it has been granted in the recent past. No ranked position from last year was moved down into unranked. Two positions moved up in order to make the ranked list 12 instead of 10, however. Some department representatives asked questions and expressed concerns about the rankings given, which committee members and the Deans answered. The motion to accept this ranking as input to the Dean was passed by a vote of 12-0-4.

- VI. Discussion item: Dean's Professional Development Awards

Dean Heller would like to get some input on moving some of the travel funds from Game Above to the professional development account. We could also add another round of PDA applications to be due in January. There was a motion to use the Game Above money that was originally set aside for travel for the PDA program and that motion passed by a vote of 15-0-2. There was then a motion that any remaining funds should be rolled over into a second application process next year (in January) and that motion passed by a vote of 18-0-0.

VII. CAS Budget Update and preview of Budget Subcommittee agenda items for 2020-2021

CAC Budget committee met Friday, 9/18/20. Dean Pernecky would like to begin thinking about the summer instructional budget later on this semester and into January, using the work of the summer task force. He is also interested in looking at the academic year instructional budget model. He then let us know that there will be a reduction in our discretionary budget fund this year. We had 3.3 million dollars last year, and we are taking a 10% cut (\$330,000) this year. As such, the Deans are looking at ways to easily cut that budget – student help is one of these areas. Cutting now unnecessary expenses (due to fewer people being on campus, etc.) allows the college to address about half of that shortfall without much detriment to the college. Dean Pernecky believes we are going to be able to address the shortfall fully but wanted to let us know what we are up against. This cut is due to our lack of enrollment; it is not a Covid cut. He is hoping to bring us an updated report after he meets with Jim Carroll and discusses things with CAC Budget in a few weeks. He also discussed a bit how this may affect the upcoming GA allocations.

VIII. Dean's Remarks – Dean Baker wants to commend faculty for all of the work with online teaching. He feels it is going well. He asked us to tell him if faculty in our departments tell us things they need or if we hear concerns from students. Second, he will be sending something about assessment out this year. He is not going to push hard on assessment this year, but within departments it would be helpful for us to be thinking about how to assess targeted outcomes, especially now that we are predominantly online. This would also let him have effective discussions with academic advisors. There will also be a report sent to the Higher Learning Commission this year.

Dean Heller addressed a question about the start date of Winter 2021. She said it is looking less likely that the start date would be moved later. Rather, the conversation is turning toward a discussion of starting Winter online and then having students move into the dorms after the New Year's party risk has passed – two weeks after the January 4, 2021 proposed start date. Winter break might also be eliminated, allowing the semester to end one week early.

Dean Baker also noted that the tenure-related binders are in the Dean's office.

- IX. Chair's Remarks – The SRA (URSLC) rep from Arts is stepping down so we need to elect a new representative to this committee asap.
- X. Faculty Remarks – We would like to put the CASI courses and how those will be handled in the future on an upcoming agenda.
- XI. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 by Chair, Jenny Kindred

Meeting minutes are respectfully submitted by Natalie Dove, CAC Secretary, 2020-2021