

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: Monday, December 11, 2017

### **1. Approval of the Agenda**

Unanimously approved

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Unanimously approved

### **3. Dean's Report**

No new information – taking questions

Senator asks about university response to negative Globe stories and their reports about the layoffs. Dean responds that each unit was asked about layoffs in their unit only. Lots of layoffs happened in building and master planning. The Dean assumed that the Head of facilities was brought in to find out how they department would meet the personnel management plan. The Dean guesses that the department didn't fight very hard to keep the staff that the Globe has reported on. The Dean is still fighting about layoffs in CLA – we aren't out of the woods yet because of bumping. The college might be okay because we have some open positions in and Asian Studies and the Dean is hoping people will bump into those. There is some concern about people bumping into jobs they're not qualified for – unions are fighting for the rights of staff, but HR has given some reassurances that there are qualifications and checks in place to prevent this. Bumping should resolve by the end of January.

In response to the Globe article about the janitor being laid off, the Dean states that most custodial positions are subcontracted so doesn't make sense that they are being laid off in numbers. It may be the case that subcontractors are laying people off but this is outside university control

One senator asks about the hiring lines in Africana Studies and is concerned that History faculty who teach African history are being left out of the search. The idea of collaboration that was initially part of the hiring package isn't coming through. The Dean responds that he was trying to protect junior faculty from overwork and other sensitive issues that are at play in re-hiring for the Africana Studies department. The search involves looking for at least one senior faculty member (maybe two) to fill the chair position and then have Junior faculty help to rebuild the department. The Dean wants to preserve an open search to help with this and to help avoid the problem of course duplication. A key goal of the search is to open up the department and make it more integrated into other departments in CLA. Africana Studies has a new major, but it isn't fully staffed (relies on cross-listed courses). As such, it needs faculty connection across departments and the job searches need to reflect this.

### **4. Moderator's Report**

Moderator reports on the Faculty Council meeting on the new Chancellor's search. Major idea was to work with faculty to define what we mean by a Research Institution and use this to provide some direction about shaping the search. Faculty

Council wants to incorporate faculty input through a survey. Responses will be used to form a statement to give to the search committee.

Any senators expecting to be on leave or sabbatical for the spring 2018 semester should let the moderator know and determine a department replacement.

The SEC is still working on a draft of a document to add to the oneform to address course overlap across the college. This will be ready for senate review and discussion at the February meeting.

**5. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following NEW courses:**

ANTH/CINE 361L

Second offering for film in this department in a new field.

Senator asks how team teaching works in this case. Anthropology has several team taught courses. 361 is a large enrollment course. If it enrolls more than 70 students it counts as one course for each faculty member. There is no precedent for a small enrollment course being team taught.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

CLSICS 218G

Title is actually Soul and Self because another seminar has mind and body in the title.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

HIST 388

SEC had previously asked for revisions to flesh out the reading schedule for this course. History believes the course will be very appealing to history majors and perhaps beyond. Senator asks about a problem with the course number – the syllabus lists a different number to the one form.

Decision: Approved with one opposed.

SOC 361

Decision: Unanimously approved.

**6. Motions from the Majors, Honors and Special Programs Committee to approve the following CHANGES to courses:**

ART 213L

Course is being cross-listed with cinema studies to make cinema studies courses more visible to students in WISER.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

COMM 105 and COMM 200

Two title changes.

Decision: Unanimously approved as a block.

### CLSICS 281

Revised description in response to Faculty Council who asked for a description that better reflects the Gen Ed distribution designations. Description has been clarified to be highlight the focus on marginalized voices in Greek civilization.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

### CLSICS 375

Removing pre-requisites for a 300-level course because of enrollment concerns.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

SEC raises a concern about the removal of pre-recs in upper level courses across the college eroding the idea of a curricula trajectory. The Senate needs to balance commitment to faculty autonomy with curricular integrity. It also needs to look at impact on student outcomes – are we setting up our students for failure? Senator comments that there is a need for sequencing and honoring the idea of learning foundations despite enrollment concerns. Senator comments that unprepared students in upper level courses impacts other prepared students and faculty as they forces adjustments to the syllabus that compromise the course. Senator comments that small enrollments in classes without pre-recs might help with nurturing students who maybe unprepared. Senator notes that this pattern of removing pre-recs is related to top-down pressures, not curricular design. It isn't motivated by pedagogy or curricular rationale. Another senator notes that pressures from the Provost and Dean are real – not filling the course by a certain date means that it is cancelled. Senator notes that LE courses were supposed to balance out low enrollment in other upper-level courses. This deal seems to have been forgotten with hard enrollment targets.

**Motion to investigate pre-requisite issue across the college:** Reform the ad-hoc curricular concerns committee to explore this. Possible charges include figuring out which classes have and don't have pre-recs; compile W, F, and INC rates for classes without pre-recs; use data to make recommendations to departments, AA Committee and Senate; report back to senate on these issues and trends.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

Senate will return to this issue at the February meeting to form the committee.

### ENGL 371

Change to course title.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

### MUSIC 101, MUSIC 102, MUSIC 104, MUSIC 106, MUSIC 109

Changing repeatability limit so that students are getting credit for their work and being held accountable for the courses they are enrolled in. Registrar will give retroactive credit for students who have previously enrolled for courses over the previous repeatability limit.

Decision: Unanimously approved as a block.

### MUSIC 498

Changing course credits to become flexible. Different projects require different amounts of work. Course now includes an application process for students to work with advisors to determine the appropriate number of credits for their project.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

### PHIL 333

Correcting a clerical error to reinstate the pre-recs that were inadvertently dropped.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

### SOC 460

Adding pre-recs to the internship.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

### THRART 361

Moving from 200 to 300 level to be in line with rest of the curriculum and other university programs. Senator asks whether the course had actually changed to reflect the increase in difficulty that the level change implies. Course hasn't been taught in over a decade so the previous syllabus is lost. Current teaching is reflecting a 300 level workload. Senator expresses concern over the lack of pre-recs for a course with a Gen Ed distribution attached to it. Theater Arts department will change the name of the course so that students don't think they can take a 300 level "Introduction" course with no pre-recs when they are expected to have taken a previous course.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

## **7. Discussion of Memo from Standards and Credits Committee**

Summary of memo: deadlines that were longstanding to respond to cases of re-admittance have shifted. Students are applying after these deadlines. S&C meeting is happening when faculty aren't around and are thus being left out of re-admittance decisions. Students are thus experiencing a different review process depending on when they apply for re-admittance. SEC poses the issue of reinstating original deadlines, setting a committee quorum, and separating out CSM from CLA on this committee to reflect earlier governance split and align this S&C with this new structure.

Senator asks who was asking S&C to do things differently? Is unclear – chair of S&C isn't really sure who they report to. Committee seems to have been co-opted by registrar who is creating policy. None of the CLA committees have protocols on paper so this might be an opportunity for committees to create goals and guidelines.

Senator argues that the deadline issue is about student success. We should not accept students who miss the re-application deadline – this is a red flag for students who are already failing. We're also inviting students back without support structures to help them succeed – late readmits will have to enroll in classes that are

available, not necessarily what they need, and they won't have access to faculty or advisors. The original deadlines should be reinstated and strictly adhered to.

Senator raises concern of cost to students. We need to make sure we're only readmitting students who are ready. We should not take their money if we aren't helping them to succeed. These changes seem to be motivated by money, not student success.

Senator poses a possible solution to create a policy that last minute cases without faculty quorum could be permissible only in the following cases. Senator responds that this would mean a decision could be made with out the committee chair being present.

Senator notes that S&C is under the purview of CLA. Thus we can decide how it works. Senator also notes that the S&C Chair has the authority to drive the committee. It falls to the chair to structure the committee. We should recall and reinforce that she has the power.

Senator asks that we invite the S&C chair to the senator to talk more before we make any decisions regarding deadlines and setting quorum. We can affirm that she has the authority to set the deadlines as chair and then work with her to reach a solution.

**Motion to reiterate that the S&C Committee is under the domain of faculty governance:** Committee Chair has the authority to determine procedural aspects of the committee, including setting deadlines and quorum. We empower the chair with the authority to do this work.

Decision : Unanimously approved.

SEC will invite S&C chair to February meeting to discuss this issue in more detail and perhaps set clearer guidelines with Senate help.

Meeting adjourned: 3:54pm

