

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: Monday, November 19, 2018

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved unanimously at 2:30 PM.

2. Approval of the minutes from October 2018

Approved unanimously at 2:30 PM.

3. Dean's Report

The Dean reports that he has no details to share about the budget process yet. He is building a case for faculty hiring and is hopeful that CLA will do better this year, though the timetable for these decisions is uncertain. The Dean's Supplementary Travel Fund and Research Fund competitions are running again, with 2 dates this year for the former and 1 for the latter. He encourages all to apply. The process for reviewing programs is finally moving along, and he continues to push for a fast-track option for obviously strong proposals. He forewarns Senators that for this reason we may see a large quantity of material coming in all at once for exciting new majors, minors, etc. that have been stuck in the pipeline since last year. One concern, though, is the tension between the Interim Provost's commitment to developing a real academic master plan (AMP) and the need to keep program proposals moving through expeditiously.

The Dean then takes questions from the CLA Senate.

The Moderator asks if a committee exists for developing the AMP. The Dean says yes, but it only consists of deans right now. Moderator asks if there will be discussion at the committee's next meeting (after Thanksgiving) about adding faculty members. The Dean responds that at some stage they will have to consider faculty involvement, since the Interim Provost wants a guide for, say, the next 5 years and faculty, who create these initiatives, can't be excluded from the planning process.

Moderator asks whether the AMP only deals with new programs, and whether part of these discussions will involve the push for online courses, a topic about which many faculty are very concerned. The Dean thinks that this is not part of the discussion, though he acknowledges the Chancellor's goal of increasing online revenues by 7-10%. Although most of the details still need to be worked out, he notes that faculty can now teach online courses on-load, and that students will likely continue to choose from a portfolio of face-to-face (F2F), online, and hybrid courses. He has seen no sign from the Chancellor that everyone will be forced to move toward online instruction; his sense is that the administration will target only those programs already doing well with online programs (e.g. Applied Linguistics, History MA) and those likely to be especially lucrative if moved online (e.g. Nursing, Management). Departments, he believes, will continue to be in charge of how their online curriculum will interface with F2F curriculum.

Senator asks whether another UMass campus has an AMP that we could see, as an example. The Dean hasn't seen one, but agrees it would be useful. Senator expresses concern about how School for Global Inclusion faculty recently learned (without having been consulted) that they would be moved to the College of Education. The Dean explains the context for this decision

(retirement of the SCI Dean), and the administration's desire to combine/consolidate units for the sake of efficiency and cost-saving. He doesn't know the details, but he says that the Chancellor is strongly opposed to schools existing outside of colleges; in any case, the SGE is unique and was created under the previous Provost's AMP without faculty consultation.

Moderator asks whether the School for the Environment is similarly vulnerable, because it is also new. The Dean says yes. Senator expresses concern about impact of "interim" Chancellor and Provost creating a new AMP and making long-term decisions for faculty, without faculty input. The Dean describes the dilemma: if we don't have a plan, do we just halt all program development and let a queue of proposals from creative and entrepreneurial faculty build up? Moderator notes that Chancellor's failure to include faculty in her statement of UMB goals creates impression that a long-term one-size-fits-all plan will be imposed—by a short-term administration—on our campus, at the expense of UMB's special urban mission and identity. Moderator asks whether the Dean could suggest other options for Senate or faculty action.

Dean explains his frustration around the budget process, including its limited transparency and the channeling of money into university advancement, residence halls, and debt payment. He has faced criticism for adding 68 NTT slots this year (in order to accommodate student need and demand), yet CLA has provided \$400K of windfall faculty salaries that the administration is sitting on. He is tired of the deficit being used as an excuse, and sympathizes with Senators' concerns, urging us to continue to "be loud" about the things that trouble faculty. He notes that we do have strong support from the state legislature, and says that at the next Deans' Council meeting after Thanksgiving he will mention that we are pushing hard for faculty involvement in AMP design.

Senator asks whether the Deans' Council could simply demand faculty involvement as a condition for the AMP moving forward. The Dean says yes. Moderator notes that we are in a better position than last year and should have a seat at the table, rather than just begging for inclusion. The Dean agrees, while noting that it can be difficult right now to know "where the table is, or whether there is even a table." More needs to be known about how these decisions are being made.

Moderator points out the irony of pushing online courses (e.g. \$3K incentive to faculty) that don't really benefit local communities while at the same time defunding centers and institutes that do serve local communities. The Dean adds that the issue of online programs having different caps than F2F courses also came up, and they've stopped the practice of giving additional money to faculty who admit more students for online courses.

Senator interjects that the parking contract the administration is trying to impose is going to be "absolutely devastating to students," and will likely push many off campus.

Senator reports hearing rumors of a new task force to work on the centers/institutes issue. The Dean confirms that a task force is being formed, but he doesn't know who is on it or what its charge is. Moderator asks whether we can still propose names (e.g. Senators) to join the task force. The Dean isn't sure whether this is a Faculty Council task force; he hasn't paid much attention because, he says, there aren't many centers or institutes in CLA.

Senator raises the topic of problems in the dorms, as reported in the recent *Boston Globe* story, asking how many CLA students live there. The Dean assumes 30-40% of dorm residents are CLA students, comparable to their proportion in total UMB student population. Senator expresses strong concern that CLA students may be exiting the dorms because of problems detailed in the news story. The Dean says that the Chancellor seems eager to address and fix these problems, even though the buildings don't belong to UMB. The situation is odd, since a separate entity owns the dorms, not UMB. Senator asks whether the Dean could ask the Chancellor what her plans are, and the Dean says yes, noting that we don't know whether the complaints told to the journalist are representative of all residents' views, since he met with some earlier in the year who said they were loving the dorms.

Senator repeats that she is concerned about reported student complaint about "blood, pee, and vomit" on the residence hall floors, and stories about non-students selling alcohol and drugs in the dorms. Senator has serious safety concerns, and wonders whether the dorms are providing "platforms for people who may choose to bring guns to this campus."

Moderator asks Senator who is an RA at the dorms for her comment on the *Globe* story. Senator confirms that some of the details are true, but notes that when concerns have arisen they've been addressed quickly. She does feel that statements about security problems have been overblown, and that having the addition of a police officer on the premises 24/7 seems unnecessary. From her perspective, it's like any college dorm she has seen, with no unusual problems.

Senator expresses concern about students who work in the dorms and may lose their jobs if a private firm is hired for security, asking the Dean what he knows about this. The Dean has not heard anything along these lines. Senator who is an RA at the dorms will ask the Associate Director of Housing who to talk to about these concerns.

Dean's Report ends 3:15 PM.

4. Moderator's Report

Moderator commends the newly formed Senate committee for coming up with a statement so quickly in support of the centers and institutes, and reiterates concern about push from administration to move more of our curriculum online. Department chairs received an email encouraging online courses, with financial incentive (\$3K) to lure faculty in this direction. We should watch out for this becoming a requirement.

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

English 204

Approved with 1 abstention at 3:18 PM.

PoliSci 310

Moderator shares Executive Committee concern about absence of prerequisite for this course, since it includes a 10 page paper. Senator reports that the instructor is open to adding a prereq and will amend accordingly.

Approved unanimously at 3:20 PM.

6. Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following CHANGES to existing courses:

Comm 220

Comm 240

Comm 250

Comm 270

Comm 300

Comm 305

Comm 320

Comm 330

Comm 340

Comm 350

Comm 351

Comm 380

Comm 480

Moderator explains the reasoning for the changes to these courses. Motion to approve as a block approved unanimously. Motion to approve changes approved unanimously at 3:21 PM.

Econ 480

Approved unanimously at 3:22 PM.

Dance 232

Approved unanimously at 3:22 PM.

LatAm 380L

Approved unanimously at 3:23 PM.

ThArts 265L

Approved unanimously at 3:23 PM.

7. Motion from the Majors, Honors, and Special Programs Committee to approve the following CHANGES to existing programs:

**Change to English major requirements*

Approved unanimously at 3:25 PM.

**Change to Transnational Cultural and Community Studies MA*

Senator agrees that proposed new program name (Critical Ethnic and Community Studies) is appropriate, but wonders what direction the program is moving in. Moderator explains that the original program name, a legacy of the former Provost, was not popular with some faculty and sometimes misled prospective students. Approved unanimously at 3:28 PM.

**Changes to Applied Sociology MA requirements*
Approved unanimously at 3:29 PM.

8. Discussion of draft Senate statement on UMB Centers & Institutes

Moderator thanks the Senate committee who composed the draft statement. Senator reads text of the statement aloud. Moderator notes approval for the way the statement reappropriates language about student success and reviews the history of funding the CIs. Senators suggest some revision of specific phrases, especially with the aim of clarifying what is meant by more dramatic language such as “egregious breach of trust.” Senator suggests that another way to strengthen the statement is to say how much funding the CIs have collectively brought into UMB (e.g. Native American & Indigenous Studies Institute and nursing school recently won \$1.2M grant for public health project). Senator cautions that such claims, highlighting the CIs’ potential for obtaining external funding, need to be made cautiously, and should bear in mind a flaw in the former Interim Chancellor’s logic: CIs would not exist in the first place if the market were fair, so using grant success as metric for assessing value of the CIs is patently unfair.

Senator recommends underscoring the mentoring functions of CIs for student success. Senator notes that given the Chancellor’s emphasis on the importance of faculty diversity, student diversity and CIs’ service to minority students needs more attention. Another Senator points out that external grants don’t in fact serve to keep CIs running because they generally do not pay for operating costs. The problem, a Senator adds, is that past decisions by the former Chancellor and Governor Deval Patrick to earmark and protect funds for 4 CIs serving vulnerable populations are not in writing. However, a recent budget amendment indicates the state legislators do support us; the problem is with the UMass President’s office.

Moderator stresses that the statement must make clear that we have the legislature’s support, despite the UMass President’s apparent desire to change UMB’s core philosophy. To strengthen our hand, the Senate will be working more closely with the Faculty Council during their leadership transition. Senator suggests that language about breach of trust between administration and faculty should be added to the statement as well.

Moderator asks for suggestions about where statement, when ready, should be directed. Senator suggests that the FSU Executive Council and the task force should receive it. Moderator suggests also department chairs, and agrees with Senator that all administrators, including the Chancellor, should get it once the Faculty Council has reviewed it. Senators agree that joining forces with the Faculty Council and the FSU would strengthen the statement’s impact, and that local media should receive it too.

Moderator concludes that the committee will make tweaks to the statement as discussed. Motion to have statement revised and then forwarded to the Faculty Council approved unanimously at

3:53 PM. Senator asks whether it could also be sent to the state legislature and UMass board of trustees. Moderator agrees that Faculty Council could consider this.

9. New Business: Discussion of Chancellor's Goals

Senator distributes statement about a recent effort to increase the size of online classes to 35. Her department received email saying that the Dean wanted an increase from 30 to 35. She has been on the bargaining team and knows the contract well, including that class size is the chairs' call, not the Dean's. However, chairs are hearing things that contradict the contract and lead them to believe that this decision is not up to them. The statement presented by the Senator asks that course cap remain at 25, reasoning that a combination of high workload and the challenge of engaging students online require keeping the class size as is. A Senator who teaches online notes that Blackboard is a very poor platform for online teaching

Moderator thanks the Senator for this update.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM.