

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: Monday 16 September 2019

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved unanimously at 2:31 PM.

2. Approval of the minutes from May 2018

Approved unanimously at 2:31 PM.

3. Dean's Report

The Dean's report was composed of three items

1. *Academic Master Plan*

On Wednesday, the Dean plans to talk to chairs about their academic planning. He wants to know whether and why departments are planning to introduce new or revised academic programs (in the next five years). Once he has that information, the goal is to compose and carefully examine an academic master plan. While he emphasized the need to forecast effectively, he assured the Senate that it will be a dynamic plan. There were no questions for the Dean about this item.

2. *Changes to CAPS (and online courses)*

According to the Dean, the College of Advancing and Professional Studies (CAPS) is changing. It's going to become a continuing education program, primarily running Winter and Summer session classes. It will not be a college, it will not handle online classes, and it will not handle non-Copley run programs. The Dean alerts us to several important implications, the most important being that there's *a lot* of uncertainty and unanswered questions about this change. (E.g., despite the uncertainty, the Dean needs to complete the Fall schedule, and yet it's unclear who will pay for certain courses. When CAPS offers a course, CAPS pays. When CLA offers a course, CLA pays. Who pays when CLA offers a course that was offered by CAPS in the past? Will there be extra or compensatory resources? How will all of this work given the separate moves afoot with UMASS Online?) The Dean promises to update us as and when he learns more about the development.

There are a lot of questions for the Dean about this item.

- i. A Senator asks about Philip DiSalvo's retirement. (DiSalvo was the Dean of CAPS). The Dean tells the Senate that no-one is in charge of CAPS now, and that we don't have a taskforce. The Dean is concerned

about the lack of leadership given the existing concerns and practical challenges of this change.

- ii. Another Senator asks whether online courses are part of the regular load. The Dean says that they are, but that there's a rule that you can't teach two online courses on-load per semester. That rule doesn't apply to NTT faculty.
- iii. Another Senator asks about weekend classes offered by CAPS. The Dean notes that CAPS wants to keep weekend offerings, but CLA departments will want to offer weekend and Friday afternoon classes too. Unfortunately, we'll be transitioning *as* we work this out, and so it's likely to be rocky.
- iv. Another Senator asks about compensation for developing online classes. The Dean explains that there are two options: (i) the individual developer gets the royalty or (ii) the department gets it. Some departments are pushing to get their whole major online. They are a lot of issues, but little oversight. However, Mya Mangswang will oversee many of these issues in her capacity as Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Digital Innovation.

3. *Hiring*

The Dean requested 15 new lines, but was only given 4. Administration and Finance counts differently to the Dean (i.e. retirees) and they were worried about the budget (although they seem more optimistic now), hence the crack down.

- i. A Senator asks whether there will also be diversity/opportunity lines. Like last year, there will be, but there will only be 3 for the whole university. He points out that the Provost favors dual hires, and so she'll likely wait to see what comes up (as these are often late developing spousal hires). He cautions that CLA has a much better diversity makeup than other colleges, and so we may not be competitive in some areas. The Dean also points out that the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) has created problems. Faculty who have left under this program are not replaced, yet their departure often leaves vital areas unstaffed. This is not an ideal way to restructure academic programs.

Dean's Report ends 2:40PM.

4. Moderator's Report

The Moderator invites the Senators to introduce themselves, before explaining their responsibilities as committee members. She then outlines the roles and responsibilities of the four CLA Senate Committees: Academic Affairs, Majors and Honors, Budget and Planning Review, and Standards and Credits.

The Moderator then asks the Senators if there are any issues that they would like to put on a long-term agenda. Three main issues arise: the first two are straightforward; the third involves a range of issues that prompts the Moderator to propose reconstituting the Curricular Concerns Committee.

3. *CLA members report on the Chancellor's search*

- Senators would like to talk to the CLA representatives on the Chancellor's search to learn more about the process and any developments.

4. *FSU liaison*

- The Senators would like a shared folder for minutes.

5. *The reactivation of the Curricular Concerns Committee*

- The Moderator suggests the reactivation of the Curricular Concerns Committee in response to the following three issues:
 - i. A Senator asks about the current policy for early course cancellation after her Special Topics course was cancelled a couple of days before the beginning of the semester. As a result of this cancellation, she was required to teach a different (online) course outside her area of expertise and that course had been taken from an NTT faculty member. The Senator emphasized that this practice, which she's since learned is not uncommon, is deeply unfair to all parties involved: (i) the TT faculty member (forced to design an online course outside her area of expertise in a matter of days); (ii) the NTT faculty member (who lost a course); and (iii) the students (who are taught by someone without sufficient expertise in the area). The Senator expressed concern about this *general* practice. However, she noted some especially concerning aspects of her own case: she is a junior TT faculty member, she has never taught online before, and while her department were willing to allow her to owe

them a course the Provost refused to allow this. The CLA Senate discussed a range of issues related to this general problem and the Senator's specific predicament and agreed that we ought to take this issue up and seek clarification of the early cancellation policy.

- ii. Another Senator noted that many of the issues raised in this discussion intersect with pedagogical worries about online classes more generally. In particular, training to teach online, capacity for online courses, and pre-requisites for online classes.
- iii. Another Senator asked about training for teaching assistants (TAs) in large enrollment courses. She explained that because her department does not have a graduate program, TAs come from outside the discipline. This is expected, but the assumption is that the TAs will come from the Humanities. However, increasingly TAs are coming from the Sciences. These individuals often have little idea how to grade or engage with Humanities assignments. This results in either an unreasonable burden on the faculty member (e.g. to grade all or most of the assignments) or pedagogically undesirable/indefensible changes to the course (i.e. changing assignments to easily gradable multiple-choice test or short answer exams).

The Moderator's report (and discussion session) ends at 3.59pm

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

- Change to Economics major
- Change to Economics minor
- Change to NAIS capstone requirement

Changes unanimously approved as a block at 3:13pm

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

- COMM 372

- HIST 468
- LABOR 390
- LABOR 275
- JAPAN 100
- JAPAN 380
- REL 110
- THARTS 200

A Senator notes that Labor studies has a grading scale that includes a A+. Another Senator ask that it be made clear whether JAPAN 380 is taught in English or Japanese.

Courses unanimously approved as a block at 3:21pm (on condition of those changes being made)

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

- CINE 201
- CINE 202

A Senator notes a spelling mistake in the course description.

Changes unanimously approved as a block at 3:23pm (on condition of those changes being made)

7. New Business

No new business.

The meeting ends at 4PM.