

CLA Senate meeting minutes
February 8, 2021 | Zoom

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Dean's report - Jane Adams

- Enrollments are level for this spring; UMB is a leader within the UMASS system and nationally. Budget is also in better shape than in years and resources that have been on hold will be opening up soon. Initiatives focusing on the mission and student success will be prioritized. No more across the board cuts or increases (line item process instead, dept by dept).
- University restorative justice committee will be making a committee report in March. Has been tasked with thinking academically, not financially. Provost is creating a broader community advisory board, esp. around Bayside – desire for something more grassroots in Columbia point. Send suggestions to Jane if you know people who could join the board or help with its organization.
- Issues with grad admissions process – is moving slowly. Working on moving more quickly to help with challenges of recruitment.
- Dean's search: actively inviting people to the committee; should be completed within two days. Have hired a new search firm (Diversify).
- Short-term award mechanism in place for research funding. Must be committed and spent by early May. Can be for faculty, departments, or students.

Q&A

- Update on alternative scheduling? Will likely be a higher percentage of hybrid courses moving forward, which will create less demand on classrooms, so alt. scheduling seems easier to accommodate. Is being seriously considered – FC is working with the Provost on it.
- Any change of evals for tenure during pandemic? Extended rule to have it be the option of faculty member and department to decide how they are used.
- Continuation of extended P/F? Is still being discussed – a complex conversation right now as there are questions about how well the policy is serving students.
- RES funds this year? Is dependent on the new contract. FSU funds are available.
- Fall planning? Will likely have some remote courses moving forward for students or faculty who do not feel ready to come back to campus. Right now, it's being considered as an option, but not a mandate, for the fall. Expectation is for a combination, but details aren't known yet.

4. Moderator's report

- Dean's search: No one from Senate on the committee; looking to bring someone to March meeting to talk about Senate needs/desires. Senators should ask departments for input to share at this meeting.
- Update to CPC – new appointment to the committee: Paul Nestor (Psychology). Unanimously approved.

- Suggestion from the Dean to have a Senate report at the monthly chairs meeting. It would be an edited and targeted report. Decision that SEC will send a rep to chairs meeting every month.

5. Old Business

- RJ committee preliminary report: committee has met and is working on process/guiding principles.
- Academic freedom: Departments feel uninformed about issues on campus regarding academic freedom. Deep concerns about increasing presence of alt-right groups on campus and targeting of professors. Academic freedom as a racial and social justice issue as BIPOC and other minority faculty are most frequently targeted; issue also deeply affects CLA faculty despite extending beyond the college. Faculty expressed very strong opposition to changes to language concerning academic freedom in FSU contract. Idea of a faculty working group to explore the issue and make recommendations. Particular concerns about misuse of classroom recordings in the time of “recorded lectures.” Idea of a statement that explains what faculty should do if they are targeted – process and protocol is unclear. Moderator will talk with Dean and Provost to see what protocols exist, if any. Will talk with FC as well to think about next steps.

6. New Business

- Inform SEC if there are any issues you would like the Senate to take up.

7. Proposals from MHSP

- Changes to Cinema Studies minor: unanimously approved.

8. Proposals from AAC

- New Courses: WGS 373, LABOR 250, AMSTY 411, ART 226 – unanimously approved as a block.
- Changes to Existing Courses: WGS 260, WGS 350 – unanimously approved as a block.

9. Adjourn