

CLA Senate Minutes
April 12, 2021

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved unanimously at 2:33pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Approved unanimously at 2:34pm.

3. Dean's report

Interim Dean Jane Adams spoke.

a. Next year's annual budget

"Quite positive right now and will only get better." Will be loaded and in place for July 1.

b. Computer replacement plan

"More favorable than anything we've seen in recent years." Process will begin this month.

c. New hiring request template

Form has been drafted for this university-wide request form. Deans across campus will meet to review and prioritize. Provides new levels of transparency. New forms will ask chairs to describe not only how new position will benefit department, but also university, in terms of, for example, racial-justice priorities.

d. Fall plans

No answers yet. Much is out of our control and will be determined at state level. Fall Planning Committee is very active, has sent out information about listening sessions. Mandatory vaccinations will not be an option due to state policy (vaccines are not yet FDA-approved).

e. University policy of withholding transcripts from students who have outstanding bills

May have seen coverage in the *Globe*. This is a common policy among universities. Some do it at the level of as little as \$200; ours is \$1000. In short, this is not a Covid-related policy, and we are more favorable than most universities.

f. Questions from senators

i. Updates about the Dean's Search? As far as Dean Adams knows, semifinalists are being decided now, with goal of getting them on campus before end of school year.

ii. How will new hiring form work with cluster hires (see e-mail from FSU today about how well-planned cluster hires can help faculty retention)? Recognition of these benefits are expressed also by the NSF and NIH...

- iii. What can we tell our colleagues about the computer replacement plan?
Louise Putnam: That information should be distributed by tomorrow.

4. Moderator's report

- a. Sustainable Solutions Lab—so many partnering/funding opportunities! Contact:
Rebecca Herst
Director
Sustainable Solutions Lab
University of Massachusetts Boston
Rebecca.Herst@umb.edu
(617) 297-6630
- b. Academic freedom threats
Collaborating between schools and across system. Next meeting CLA is in next 10-14 days so send your name if interested and circulate with department.
- c. Next year set for senator; four NTT at-large all finishing; two TT up; circulate; also 1-2 SEC positions coming up (eventually needing a moderator...). Committees all filled but Standards and Credits (any faculty, would love to have Sociology...).

5. Proposals from MHSP

- a. Art name change

Approved unanimously at 3:09pm.

6. Proposals from AAC

a. New courses

- i. ART 251: African-American art
- ii. ASIAN 367L: Food and culture in Japan
- iii. CLSICS 205G: Running a Business in Ancient Rome
- iv. MUSIC 443: Sociocultural perspectives in music education

Approved unanimously at 3:10pm.

b. Changes to existing courses

- i. ANTH 366: changes to description and pre-reqs
- ii. CLSICS 285: number change
- iii. ECON 698: description changes plus various credit
- iv. HIST 211, 212: description changes
- v. SOCIOL 460, 461, 470, 474: changes to descriptions and pre-reqs
- vi. THRART 124: description changes
- vii. WGS 292, 370: description changes

Approved unanimously by 3:16pm.

7. New Business

- a. Senators and Senate Committees (see above)
- b. Provost's change to handling of academic dishonesty: Provost is looking to revise protocols for handling issues of academic dishonesty through a racial justice lens. Memo sent by his office suggested some possible changes to move away from a putative system, but details of this are yet to be determined. Moderator will report back with more details as they become available.
- c. UMass Online
<http://www.umassonline.net/>
Go to department, note overlaps, concerns; Moderator is going to talk to Dean's Office to talk to Provost; end April 12

8. Old Business

- a. Fall Planning
 - i. Senator questions...
 - ii. Since no requirements to vaccinate... Large-enrollment one thing to think about
 - iii. Also snug rooms, even if non-enrollment
 - iv. How are other universities solving? E.g., hybrid fall
 - v. Other public universities in other states are requiring vaccinations?
 - vi. Performing arts concerns
 - vii. What will be university mandates? Can faculty make mandates if university won't? What about (non-)compliance from students?
 - viii. Children
 - ix. Ventilated spaces?
 - x. Outdoor classes?
 - xi. Compliance + : aggression
 - xii. Facilities, cleaning
 - xiii. Survey coming; also listening session

9. Adjourn

Meeting ended at 1:01pm.