

College of Arts & Sciences

Fairfield University

Faculty Meeting
31 January 2014
Alumni House
3:30 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

With 56 faculty members present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. No proxies were filed.

A. Approval of Minutes

Prof. Bowen MOVED to approve the minutes from the 13 December 2013 meeting. Prof. Miecznikowski SECONDED the motion. With a clear majority of faculty voting yea, the motion PASSED.

B. Announcements & Reports

1. University "Water" theme, update by Prof. Yarrington

Prof. Yarrington reported on the following updates regarding the university-wide "water" theme that will officially begin in Fall 2014.

- The water logo has been created
- March 1 deadline for course applications (new and existing courses with any water themes or content are needed). Faculty may submit courses and event ideas for Fall 2014 or later semesters. Prof. Pearson added that Humanities courses with "oceanic" content would be strong additions to the water course list.
- Student board will be created with one student representative from each school in the university. Prof. Yarrington encouraged colleagues to discuss this opportunity with CAS students.
- The library will host a series of water-themed exhibits
- Prof. Yarrington asked colleagues to consider nominating convocation speakers with water oriented research or expertise

2. Report, Mission Statement Committee

The Chair updated colleagues about recent progress made by the CAS Mission Statement working group.

She reminded those in attendance of the procedure through which the working group was created. In addition to each member of the ASPC, every CAS department contributed one faculty member each to created the working group.

The following colleagues are on the CAS Mission Statement committee:

Mike Andreychik (Psychology)
 Jocelyn Boryczka (Politics)
 Javier Campos (Modern Languages)
 Robbin Crabtree (CAS Dean)
 Dave Crawford (Sociology and Anthropology, ASPC)
 Rick DeWitt (Philosophy)
 Cindi Gannett (English)
 Gisela Gil-Egui (Communication)
 Manyul Im (Philosophy/ Associate Dean, ASPC)
 Scott Lacy (Sociology and Anthropology/secretary, CAS faculty)
 Paul Lakeland (Religious Studies)
 Laura McSweeney (Math)
 Kathy Nantz (Economics)
 Sally O'Driscoll (English/chair, CAS faculty)
 Aaron Perkus (Associate Dean, ASPC)
 Gavriel Rosenfeld (History)
 Jim Simon (Associate Dean, ASPC)
 Kraig Steffen (Chemistry)
 Dave Winn (Physics)

The group held its first meeting on January 24. Members brainstormed about the scope of the mission statement, and they generated essential ideas to incorporate into a draft statement. The group then created a sub-committee that will aggregate input and draft a statement to bring to the CAS for review and discussion.

The subcommittee will bring a draft statement to the full committee twice prior to the next CAS faculty meeting. The committee will present the second draft statement and invite input from all colleagues at the March 7 CAS faculty meeting. The subcommittee will incorporate suggested revisions and then work with the full committee to draft for full approval of CAS faculty, the final draft of the CAS mission statement. All CAS faculty will vote on the final draft of the CAS mission statement at the May 1 CAS faculty meeting.

Prof. Bowen asked about the size of the statement (e.g. word/paragraph count). The Chair responded; based on committee research, concision is key for effective mission statements. Prof. Rosivach noted that the subcommittee that is drafting the statement has yet determine the actual size or nature of the statement. Rosivach added that the document may or may not be a single paragraph, and that it may or may not include a supplementary document or paragraph. Nevertheless the document is unlikely to exceed one page in length. Referring to the on-going process to draft the CAS mission statement, the Chair encouraged faculty contributions and input during CAS meetings and other discussions with colleagues on the mission statement committee.

C. Enrollment update and discussion

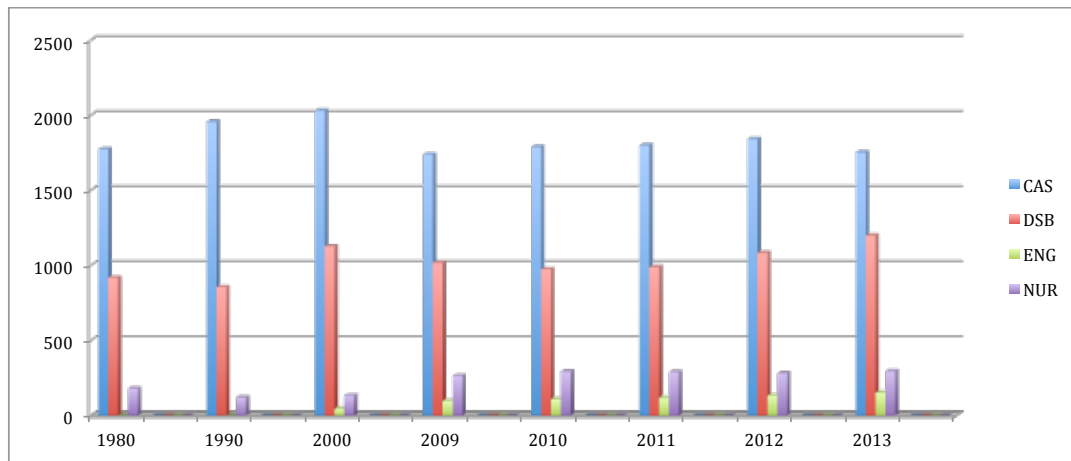
The Dean presented a CAS overview of enrollment for the class of 2018.

1. Class of 2012 Case Study: 621 incoming CAS students in the fall of 2008
 555 students graduated from CAS
 26% began undecided, and later moved into the CAS

**TREND ANALYSIS
NUMBER & PERCENTAGE OF DECLARED MAJORS BY SCHOOL (DATA FROM FALL OF EACH YEAR)**

	1980	1990	2000	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CAS	1772 62%	1955 67%	2029 61%	1737 56%	1787 57%	1798 56%	1839 55%	1751 52%
DSB	917 32%	854 29%	1125 34%	1016 33%	973 31%	987 31%	1082 32%	1197 35%
ENG	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	44 1%	96 3%	107 3%	116 4%	132 4%	151 4%
NUR	178 6%	119 4%	132 4%	263 8%	291 9%	287 9%	280 8%	294 9%

TREND ANALYSIS BAR GRAPH



The Associate Deans' longitudinal analysis shows that CAS has a slightly declining proportion of each incoming class when compared to the professional schools. However, with the growth of the University's undergraduate student body, the number of CAS majors has remained relatively steady.

Attrition rate is small – we retain and graduate nearly 90% of students who enter as CAS in CAS (university-wide retention rate is approximately 87-88%). “Lost” students include those who drop out, transfer, are dismissed, and transfer to other schools at Fairfield. We also get a few students from the other schools in each class.

The five majors with the most net growth in students (graduating as compared to entering), also for the class of 2012, were, in rank order: PY, CO, SO, EC, & PO.

Prof. Goldfield asked about trends in double majors, and across schools. The Dean noted that data on double majors is not yet available, but that such an analysis could be a good idea. The Dean added that such an analysis could include minors as well as double majors.

2. Class of 2018 – Early Action Profile Data

At this early stage (“Early Action”), enrollment was up 13% last year, and is up another 13% this year. SAT numbers variable but on the decline (1841).

Class of 2018 by the numbers...

- 62% female (similar to previous years)
- 27% test optional
- 521 students of color (increase from previous year)
- 194 from Jesuit high schools ((similar to previous years)
- 274 legacy students (similar to previous years)

3. Class of 2013 – Class Employment Data

Class employment data is in for the Class of 2013. Of those responding, 98% of the Class of 2013 is working full-time, in a graduate program, or doing some form of post-graduate service.

4. Questions & Answers

Prof. Lakeland asked if the numbers in the Dean's presentation on "Early Action" students were CAS numbers alone, or if they were university-wide numbers. The Dean said that all data was university data (not CAS specific).

Prof. Rosivach asked about the target number for the Class of 2018. The Dean replied that 925 was the target number for budgets. Prof. Rosivach asked if the real target number was 970 students. The Dean agreed that the number could be higher than 925, and explained that some people are optimistic, while others are more pessimistic about predicting and creating budgets for the Class of 2018.

Prof. Primavera asked the Dean to ask university administrators to provide more resources to update and improve campus classrooms. Primavera noted that her department required several classroom changes due to facilities related issues (e.g. insufficient audio-visual equipment). The Dean agreed that maintaining and updating classrooms is a critical, yet complex issue. Current data suggests classroom use is at 68%. The Dean also said that a significant annual capital allotment goes to classroom upgrades including new furniture and carpeting. This can include the removal of asbestos, which occurred on the first floor of Canisius over the winter break. Similar work is done every winter break and every summer.

D. Dean's Remarks

1. The Dean announced the appointment of Prof. Brian Walker as Associate Dean beginning July 2014.
2. The Dean thanked the Planning Committee for their proactive efforts to engage the College faculty, in collaboration with the Dean and Associate Deans, in the CAS Mission conversation
 - a. Strategic Planning process is in process, with a 5 of 7 faculty steering committee members coming from the CAS.
 - b. The work of the Planning Committee on a CAS Mission Statement will help this broader strategic planning and our roles within it.
3. The Dean thanked department chairs for their efficient budget and course scheduling work. The Dean added that the College will have no news on authorizations to hire temporary or

permanent faculty for a couple months. She noted with some optimism that leadership in the Academic Division are busy defending and promoting continued investment in tenure track faculty and, more broadly, in faculty-facilitated instruction and student engagement. She added that:

- a. We need to be more vigilant than ever on course scheduling, enrollment management, and prudent use of resources.
 - b. We still need to justify every search, and to demonstrate we are a resource savvy part of the college, and we must be realistic that other schools may be attractive areas for investment.
 - c. We need everyone's cooperation in ensuring CAS is understood as a good resource manager.
4. The Dean also thanked the Associate Deans who are effectively engaged in a wide variety of projects and collaborations with departments, such as program reviews, peer review of teaching projects, and assessment.
 5. The Dean listed several highlights of recent faculty work:
 - Linda Henkel's research on memory and the "photo-taking-impairment effect" has been garnering national media attention.
 - Mike Serazio has been selected for the national seminar on Jesuit Higher Education (Conversations magazine)... on Board of the magazine is part.
 - Kathy Scwabb's work on Parthenon Metopes is gaining attention with exhibits in NYC and the enthusiastic involvement of the Greek and Greek-American communities.
 - Min Xu's work is being featured on the website of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) in relation to the Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP).
 - Emily Orlando was the featured speaker for Edith Wharton's 152nd birthday celebration at her historical home up in Massachusetts.
 - Michelle Farrell's "happy hour" classroom activity was featured in an article for the online HigherEdgy.
 - Scott Lacy was recently tapped to create a four-field anthropology course for The Great Courses.
 6. Final Reflections:
 - As faculty, we should help our students articulate to their parents, employers and others (and with passion) the value of their liberal arts education. The Dean warned against assuming that students understand what we do or why we do it. She advised communicating the value of liberal arts education through syllabi, assignments, grading, rubrics, last/first class session, etc.
 - We need for everyone's participation in defending the inherent value of a liberal arts education, as well as its practical value, and to help students map their liberal arts degrees to career discernment.
 - The Dean thank everyone, "for all you do, every day in the classroom and through your scholarship, to build Fairfield's sustainable future."

E. Adjournment

Prof. Dennin MOVED to adjourn. Prof. Sauer SECONDED the moth. With a clear majority in favor, the motion PASSED.

Future CAS Faculty Meetings

Friday, March 7, 3:30 (Alumni House)

Thursday, May 1, 3:30 (Alumni House)*

*annual CAS celebration of faculty accomplishments

Arts & Sciences Planning Committee

Ex officio

Robbin Crabtree, Dean

Sally O'Driscoll, Chair of CAS (2012-2014, 2nd term)

Scott Lacy, Secretary of CAS (2013-2015, 2nd term)

Elected

Bob Epstein, Humanities (2012-14)

Dave Crawford, Behavioral & Social Sciences (2012-14)

Marty LoMonaco, Interdisciplinary Programs (2013-15)

Brian Walker, Natural Sciences & Mathematics (2013-15)