

CAS Faculty Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 7, 2018
Kelley Center Presentation Room
3:32 p.m. to 4:21 p.m.

There were 44 faculty members present.

The Chair, Prof. Scott Lacy called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Announcements from the Chair

The FDEC Workshop & Lunch will happen on Tuesday, December 11th from 12 noon to 2 pm, in the Kelley Center.

The following Course Design Institutes will happen in January 2019:

- Social Justice, January 16th
- Interdisciplinary, January 17th

Faculty are kindly asked to apply for these Course Design Institutes by January 9th.

In May 2019, there will be a Course Design Institute for Writing (WAC/WID).

The Chair asked for nominations to the Merit Reviews Committees. The Committees will need two at-large representatives in the Humanities; one at-large representative in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and one at-large representative in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Faculty are reminded to update their Digital Measures profiles.

2. Approval of the CAS Faculty Meeting Minutes

from October 15, 2018 (Bowen/Steffen)

from November 8, 2018 (Harding/McSweeney)

Both passed unanimously.

3. Discussion about the Strategic Plan of the College of Arts and Sciences

The Dean thanked everyone for attending.

The Provost has changed the way we do budgeting. We are going through budgeting earlier and collectively in the Academic Affairs area. The Dean will be meeting with Department Chairs from the College of Arts and Sciences to have a discussion about their budget requests.

The Provost wants to know the needs of the College. This is important for resource allocations, faculty line requests, and facilities requests. All of these things connect together in critical ways. The more involvement we have, the more investment we have, the better off we will be in two or three years.

We need to begin to think about our budget requests for the next two to three years. What are the costs of the new core curriculum? How can we present a budget that will fund the new core over a number of years? What is a three-year projection for the costs of the core?

Associate Dean Petrino gave an update on the Strategic Plan and to give a revised timeline.

- The following are members of the Strategic Planning Committee: Margaret McClure (Social Sciences), Nels Pearson (Humanities), Shelley Phelan (Natural Science and Mathematics), Kathy Schwab (Communication, Arts & Media), Glenn Sauer (CAS Associate Dean), and Elizabeth Petrino (CAS Associate Dean)

Thus far, the Strategic Planning Committee has accomplished the following:

- Developed and refined draft goals based on SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). Based on the SWOT analysis, the committee posted draft framework goals on Quip.
- Received comments from the Quip documents on draft goals
- Sent goals to Departments for discussion
- A subgroup drafted a purpose statement based on the College mission statement (Van Dyke, Keenan, and Petrino). The President asked for a purpose statement for the College of Arts and Sciences. The goal of the purpose statement is to say what we give to students.

The Timeline for the Strategic planning committee over the next few months is:

- December 2018: The Committee continues to refine draft goals
 - outreach to Departments and Programs by School Directors and Associate Deans (continues into next semester)
 - Summary of faculty responses:
 - “inclusion” rather than diversity. When we speak about diversity, we speak about different types. Social, geographic and ethnic diversity.
 - Make clear that College owns the core
 - Make clear to include “socio-economic, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity”
 - “International” or “global” rather than “national”
 - “sustainable” may be replaced with “stewardship”. Sustainable used to refer to financial stability. Alongside research, want to also focus on creative projects in the Visual and Performing Arts.

- The committee will create working groups whose task will be to develop each goal. There will be four working groups. Each working group will consist of 3-4 faculty, staff, or administrators.
- February 2019 – working groups develop action items and send to CAS Strategic Planning Committee
 - actionable and measurable items
 - Benchmarks with 3-year horizon for review
 - Formal training will be provided through CAE or SCUP
 - Committee reviews action items

Want individual goals to be actionable. The committee will need to keep track of the goals to see how they are measured, and if the benchmarks are met. Want to set benchmarks for a three-year period.

- March 2019 –
 - Create a wiki or other web platform for the draft goals and strategic plan. Want to develop another web platform to go further in the plan.
 - Gather responses on the draft goals, sub goals, and action items
 - CAS Board of Advisors
 - CAS Student Advisory Committee. This is a new committee of students who will act as a sounding board for the faculty.
 - Arts & Sciences Planning Committee
 - Alumni (focus groups)
- April 2019 –
 - present strategic plan to faculty, students and larger community
 - plan a townhall meeting for presenting strategic plan
 - meet with key administrators, including the Office of Provost and Student Life
 - Committee meets to refine and review the plan in connection with Fairfield 2020
- May 2019 –
 - consider College Strategic Plan for approval at College Faculty Meeting

There are four themes in the Strategic Plan.

1. Achieve High Standards of Distinction in Teaching and Learning

- Provide a student-driven, arts and sciences experience, led by a world-class engaged faculty and staff.
 - Establish an international reputation for teaching and student achievement through a commitment to academic rigor, high-impact learning practices, and the scholarly and creative achievements of faculty within an arts and sciences framework.

- Develop and implement the “Magis” core curriculum to make it a unifying experience of the arts and sciences for all Fairfield University students that highlights the College’s commitment to interdisciplinary study, writing across the curriculum and social justice.

2. Support Curricular and Research Innovation

- Forward knowledge creation and scholarly discourse as a community and faculty that engages in the world’s social urgencies. At a University, we are creating new knowledge and scholarly discourse to present new findings.
 - Enhance Research Opportunities to advance our reputation nationally for research and creative accomplishments among faculty and increase student participation in faculty-supervised research and creative projects.

3. Ethical Education and Jesuit Values

- Offer a Values-Based and Ethical Education Rooted in the rigor of Jesuit Pedagogy and the Quest for Social Justice in All its Forms. This is offered through various ways in Jesuit pedagogy:
 - Provide an education that is centered on ethics, social justice, service, and sustainability that aligns with Jesuit pedagogy.
 - Develop and Nurture a Campus Community that Embraces and Values Inclusivity.
 - Enhance community and dialogue among students, faculty, and staff and increase the socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity among students, faculty and staff.

4. Sustainability and Stewardship

- Manage responsibly our resources (natural and financial), be financially sustainable, operate efficiently and with effectiveness, always mindful of our environmental footprint.
 - Develop programs (graduate and undergraduate) that enhance curriculum and will attract future generations of students.

We get to decide what the goals are and how we will measure it.

We will need to make the strategic plan unique to us. Faculty should have a conversation with their Department Chair and give their Chair suggestions on how-to wordsmith the strategic plan.

Prof. Bowen understood the importance of the strategic plan to the College. Dean Petrino has made updates and at this point, it is time to set out another version of the Strategic plan. She suggested that the Committee create a Wiki that contains the plan where Faculty may add comments. Dean Petrino commented that several people have commented that Quip is difficult to use. Dean Petrino will also post the purpose statement for the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Dean wants the faculty to own the Strategic Plan. He can fundraise for the Strategic Plan. He wants to make sure we have the resources we need, the right facilities, and adequate numbers of faculty to meet our goals.

The Dean wished everyone all of the best for the holidays and the new year!

Prof. Ron Davidson is running the individual Humanities grant workshop on January 18th. Please check the faculty announcement for how to sign up.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Bowen/Crawford) at 4:21 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Miecznikowski
Secretary of the College of Arts and Sciences