

**College of Arts and Sciences
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 11, 2019
Kelley Center Presentation Room**

Proxies were held by/for

John Miecznikowski/Amanda Harper-Leatherman
Joan Weiss/Laura McSweeney

The Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

There were approximately 50 Faculty members present.

1. Announcements from the Chair

Two additional College of Arts and Sciences Faculty meetings are scheduled in the Spring 2019 term:

- Thursday, March 14 at 3:30 p.m. in Alumni House
- Friday, April 26 at 3:30 p.m. in Alumni House

There are drop in hours for faculty seeking WAC/WID designation for their courses. These times are Monday, 9:30 am to 12:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Donnarumma 132 (now through March 1)

There will be a Course Design Institute: Writing (WAC/WID) in May 2019. The exact dates will be announced at a later time.

2. Approval of the December 7, 2018 meeting minutes

Weiss/Steffen. The minutes were approved without any objections.

3. Brief Remarks from the Dean

Dean Greenwald has been raising money for student internship experiences. Some students can't afford to conduct internships if they are receiving scholarships. Students who seek an internship in Washington, D.C. will have an opportunity to apply for a housing allowance if they demonstrate a financial need. The CAS Dean's office will develop an application process.

Grants are available for faculty who need them to help pay for publication costs.

Budget information was collected much earlier this year than in previous years. The Dean's office asked deeper questions about budget requests this year. The budget request was submitted to the Provost two weeks ago.

The Dean's office will submit faculty line requests to the Provost. There were 25 line requests this academic year. The Dean's office is coming up with lists of priorities. The Dean is trying to convert visiting assistant professor lines to tenure track lines.

The Dean has been meeting with finalists for faculty job searches. He has been meeting with wonderful scholars. All are great candidates. The College has been able to hire our first choice thus far, and the Dean hopes to continue to do that going forward.

The College of Arts and Sciences is in need of a strategic vision to bring us all together. It is hard to raise money for necessary resources. How does the ask align with the priorities of the College of Arts and Sciences? The University will add resources. The entire faculty needs to be involved to set these priorities. The goal is develop a living strategic plan that consists of four or five goals that we are seeking to achieve. The Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences will be invested in the process of developing a strategic plan.

4. Introduction to new staff members in the College of Arts and Sciences

Kim Nickolenko and Stephanie Gallo are members of the Dean's Staff in the College of Arts and Sciences. They are located in Canisius 7. They are meeting with students to help them find job and internship opportunities and also to help them design programs. They are providing support for the College and they are helping to organize events in the College of Arts and Sciences in new ways.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, 94.6 % of graduates receive jobs within 6 months after graduation. The Dean would like to raise that number to 96 % or higher.

5. Elections: Merit Review Committees and Distinguished Teaching and Mentorship Award Committee

The Departments of History, Religious Studies and Biology need to elect departmental merit representatives for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years. The Department of Religious Studies will need to elect a merit representative for the 2018-2019 academic year.

The Chair asked if there were any additional nominations to serve as the Humanities representative for the Distinguished Teaching and Mentorship Award Committee. Profs/ Davis/Petrino moved to close nominations.

Prof. Michelle Farrell was elected as the Humanities Representative in the Distinguished Teaching and Mentorship Award Committee by acclamation.

There was a vote to elect at-large representatives for the merit committees in the humanities, natural sciences & mathematics, and social & behavioral sciences.

The following professors were elected to serve as at-large representatives:

Humanities: Sara Brill and Katherine Schwab

Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Kraig Steffen

Social and Behavioral Sciences: Scott Lacy

6. Strategic Planning Process Discussions

The Dean feels strongly that the Strategic Plan will serve the CAS Faculty best if they own the process, and desires to facilitate a process that will give all departments of the CAS a voice in it.

This spring the Dean's goal is to engage a critical constituency of CAS Faculty in the revisioning of the four CAS Strategic Planning Goals as currently imagined.

Though this Strategic Planning process needs to be collaborative, it also needs to happen fairly quickly, and so this collaborative process will be facilitated during the Spring 2019 semester.

All departments in the College of Arts and Sciences will appoint two representatives (28 faculty). These representatives will join the four Directors of the schools, the two Associate Deans (6 faculty) and the CAE Director of Curriculum Development (ex officio, facilitating). From this group of 34 faculty, five working groups of 6-7 faculty will form. Most work will take place in this small group. Each working group will be chaired by a director of a school or an Associate Dean.

The following faculty have volunteered to participate in the working groups so far:

Biology: Jim Biardi and Olivia Harriott

Chemistry & Biochemistry: Matthew Kubasik and Aaron Van Dyke

Communication: Niall Brennan and Adam Rugg

English: Matt Tullis and Nadia Zamin

History: Liz Hohl and Sunil Purushotham

Mathematics: Irene Mulvey

Modern Languages and Literature: Laura Gasca Jimenez and Jerelyn Johnson

Politics: Gwen Alphonso and Janie Leatherman

Psychology: Shannon Harding and Linda Henkel

Religious Studies: Nancy Dallavalle and Ron Davidson

Sociology: Rose Rodrigues

Visual & Performing Arts: Suzanne Chamlin and Marti LoMonaco

Each working group will focus on a single theme, taking as its starting point the goals below:

- Achieve High Standard of Distinction in Teaching and Learning
- Faculty Research and Creative Accomplishments
- Support a Jesuit-Inspired, Ethical Education
- Sustainability and Stewardship

Each Working Group will:

- Draft sub-goals (if needed), action items, and a vision statement for their area.
- Be chaired by a school director or an associate dean and will meet no more than four times during the semester.
- Act as a sounding board for faculty feedback during the process and provide updates to departments.

Participating faculty will be surveyed for their areas of interest and placed in the working group that corresponds to their request, with faculty from the same department working on different groups.

The fifth working group will look holistically at the four themes, asking what they leave out, offering additional suggestions for a possible fifth theme, and clarifying the ways in which the goals work together or severally. This group will also consider the ongoing process, including those who across the University should or could be consulted in refining the goals and the larger strategic plan into the future.

All departments will have representatives on the working groups.

The Faculty at each table discussed the goals. They provided notes and suggestions on goal language, dreamed of action items, and provided the working groups suggestions for areas of specific focus as they move forward.

Faculty may continue to give feedback throughout the Spring through their departmental representatives or through conversation with colleagues on any of the working groups or through the Quip document.

After the faculty discussed the draft goals in groups, several faculty offered feedback. Prof. Dallavalle suggested that each goal should begin with the same parallel structure. She suggested the following verbs: Achieve, Support, Offer, and Ensure. Prof. Epstein commented that the strategic plan gives faculty the broader sense of stewardship. Prof. McClure stated that Fairfield University is committed to social justice and we should show this across campus. We should not overuse adjuncts and professors of the practice. We need to consider our national reputation

and our on-campus reputation. We need to foster inclusion on campus. How can we do that on campus? Prof. Biardi commented on the use of sustainability. He is disappointed in Fairfield University's use of "sustainability" in the 2020 document.

The Dean thanked everyone for taking the time to reflect on the goals. This represents our values and our strategic goals. We will vote on it.

Dean Petrino reminded us as Department representatives do more work, they will report out to the Strategic Planning Committee. They will provide updates on the process and how it is going. They will provide as much feedback as we would like.

7. Adjournment

Prof. Lacy thanked the CAS Faculty Secretary for all of his hard work. The CAS Faculty offered him a round of applause.

The next CAS Faculty meeting will take place on Thursday, March 14th at 3:30 p.m. in Alumni House.

Prof. Crawford moved to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.. This motion was seconded by Prof. LoMonaco.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Miecznikowski
CAS Secretary 2017-2019