

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2019
Alumni House

There were 41 faculty members present.

A proxy was held by John Miecznikowski for Amanda Harper-Leatherman.

1. Announcements from the Chair

Next CAS Meeting, Friday April 26th at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the February 11, 2019 meeting minutes

Motion to approve (Weiss/Huber). The minutes were approved with several abstentions.

3. Faculty Research Minutes (three faculty were invited to present)

Jillian Smith-Carpenter

I am an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. We often call amino acids and nucleic acids the building blocks of life, and as such, researchers have spent a lot of time developing design rules based on non-covalent interactions that can direct the assembly of peptides to yield specific supramolecular structures, including nanofibers and nanotubes. The overarching theme of my research focuses on incorporating reactivity and function to these self-assembling supramolecular peptide structures. One of the projects that I am mentoring undergraduate students on involves characterizing a transthioesterification reaction on the surface of these nanofibers. In order to complete this project, my students have synthesized and purified a thioacetate modified peptide and then characterized the self-assembly process. After we have established that the peptides did form a nanofiber, we then followed the transthioesterification under several different conditions using both MALDI mass spectrometry and HPLC analysis. My students and I are currently preparing a manuscript for peer-review publication on this project. In addition to this project, I also have students working on the development of a MALDI mass imaging protocol so that we can create a 2D spatial map of reactions and peptide self-assemblies and another project that focuses on understanding the emergent electrochemical properties of self-assembling with Amanda Harper-Leatherman in the department. I'm excited to say that the ongoing research projects in my lab, those I discussed and a two other projects that I'd be happy to discuss with anyone that is interested after the meeting, will be presented by myself and my undergraduate research students at the upcoming National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Orlando FL in April.

Ron Davidson

I work on the development of ritual systems in Mahayana Buddhism, a religious tradition widely but incorrectly thought of as not having ritual. Specifically, I work on dhāraṇī literature, perhaps the most neglected of all Indian Buddhist literature. They survive in various forms in Sanskrit recensions, or Chinese and Tibetan translation. Dhāraṇīs were the earliest surviving printed documents in history, which is some measure of their importance. Currently I am working on one of the most important of the dhāraṇī texts, entitled the *Mūlamantra*. We have 6th century Sanskrit fragments from the Gilgit manuscript repository in Baltistan, three Chinese translations from the sixth to the eighth centuries, and a Tibetan translation from the early ninth century. I have translated the earliest of the Chinese recensions, that attributed to the Liang Dynasty between 502-557 CE, although it was probably produced during the time of Liang Wudi (502-540). In contravention of normal philological expectations, this earliest recension is the longest, and includes much material not reflected in the others, about one quarter of the text overall. Some of it is drawn from a lost version of the ritual appendix to the domestic rites of the Atharvaveda tradition of Hinduism. The *Mūlamantra* is the earliest surviving Buddhist text to articulate many meditative and performative ritual events — the systematic use of mantras, the first time the mantra Om is spoken by Buddhists, the first employment of mudras or hand gestures, the first section on Buddhist art, to mention but the most important of its innovations. The earliest version was probably produced in the area of the cave temples of Ajanta, since it is the only place during the Gupta-Vakataka empires that we see Buddhist art and Atharvaveda ritual in the archaeological record.

Nels Pearson

In general my work focuses on early to mid 20th century English and Irish literature in the contexts of imperialism, nationalism and internationalism. The main authors I work on are Virginia Woolf, Joseph Conrad, James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, W.B. Yeats and the unheralded but brilliant novelist Elizabeth Bowen. I wrote a book called *Irish Cosmopolitanism* in 2015 that studied how Irish writers in continental Europe negotiate national and international identity in ways that anticipate contemporary debates about the concept of cosmopolitanism in interdisciplinary critical approaches to global democracy.

My current work looks at the British Isles as an archipelago of shifting populations and migrations, thus moving away from Anglocentric and national models of cultural history that see the isles as English at their “core” and Celtic or Norse at the “fringe,” and looking instead at the migrations and circulation that have occurred in the isles, especially via saltwater. This more “in motion” model leads me to think about modern literature of the isles in terms of water, coasts, islands, and maritime history, all of which challenges isolationist Anglo nationalism in lots of compelling ways. In fact I was working on this project in Cornwall on the day of the Brexit referendum. My most recent article is on the role of Scottish Islands and the concept of Britishness in Virginia Woolf, and it is chapter one of a book in progress.

4. Elections: CAS Secretary, and ASPC Committee members from the Natural Sciences & Mathematics and Interdisciplinary Studies

John Miecznikowski was elected Secretary of the College of Arts and Sciences for 2019-2021.

Shannon Gerry was elected as an ASPC representative for Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Her term will be from 2019 to 2021.

Peter Bayers was elected as an ASPC representative for the Interdisciplinary areas. He will serve a two-year term from 2019-2021.

5. Update from the Dean

Shannon Harding made this announcement:

Do you have an existing course that meets the objectives of WAC/WID, SJ or ID?

Spend some time over Spring Break filling out the application form for Signature element designation, and earn some money!

The **top 15** well-written applications that are submitted **on time** will receive **\$250. Applications due April 1.**

Note:

1. If necessary, priority will be given to CORE courses (over major courses).
2. Faculty who participated in January CDI's are not eligible (you are already getting paid for application submission).
3. Limit: one stipend per faculty member. (But please consider submitting more than one course.)

The forms and links for submission are available on the *Magis* Core website:

<http://faculty.fairfield.edu/magiscore/#>

Faculty will be notified of awards around April 15. (And / or you will receive a very kindly worded thank you note.)

Please contact the SJ, WAC/WID or ID coordinators with any questions.

The Dean applauded folks who were on Search Committees this year. He has been impressed with the candidates who have interviewed on campus. He has made the following hires: two faculty in public relations/Communications, one faculty member in English, two faculty members in Psychology, one faculty member in Mathematics and one faculty member in the MFA program. Other offers will be going out today and tomorrow.

The Dean's office will be publishing an internal newsletter with Faculty accomplishments. The monthly newsletter will go out to students and to faculty. The newsletter will announce

publications, books, and presentations. At the beginning, the newsletter will be delivered on paper, but eventually, it will be paperless.

The budget looks good for next year. The Dean has added additional resources by fundraising. The Dean has raised money for students stipends while the students are completing internships. There are also funding opportunities for textbooks, transportation passes for internships in New York City, as well as housing and food allowances for students in Washington, DC. There is around \$70,000 available for students in the summer of 2019. The Dean asked faculty to point students toward these resources.

The Dean is having conversations with the Provost regarding line requests. The Dean will be getting back to the Department chairs in the next few weeks with an update on their requests.

The College needs to support the Honors Program. Ten percent of the incoming students will be in the Honors Program. Faculty who are interested in teaching in the Honors program should talk to Giovanni Ruffini and Laura Nash.

The undergraduate enrollment is looking strong for the class that enters in September 2019. The entering class may be the largest class ever. Right now, between 1150 and 1200 undergraduate first-year students are expected to enroll. There is enormous interest in the College.

A group of faculty and the Dean's office have worked on a proposal for space. The group has put together a proposal for a space for programs in the arts and media. One possibility is to refurbish the building that currently houses the Dolan School of Business. Another possibility is to build additional buildings. A major donor has been identified to support this proposal.

A lot of work will happen on campus in the summer of 2019. Major renovations will happen in Canisius. The building will be evacuated by May 12th. The renovations will include HVAC upgrades, new windows, and classroom refurbishment. The new Dolan School will be inhabited in the summer of 2019. New townhouses will be completed in the summer of 2019. There will be renovations in the Bannow Science Center as well in the summer of 2019.

There was a successful event for first-generation students two weeks ago. The Dean invited alumni back who were first-generation students to speak to current first-generation students. These conversations will be on-going in the future.

6. Conversation about the Schools in the College of Arts and Sciences

The Dean thanked the four directors of the schools for providing leadership and vision. The four directors have gelled. What should the Schools be used for? The School directors are doing a lot and are receiving a small stipend.

The alumni events that were sponsored by the Schools have been successful. The SoCAM alumni event was overflowing. It is harder to do an alumni event with smaller majors. We need to continue having alumni events since students relate well to them.

The directors of the Schools handle space requests for buildings. Are the College Faculty okay with this setup? Some departments are in multiple schools?

Prof. Pearson mentioned that there needs to be an understanding what the Schools are doing. The Dean said that the schools are doing things that are not in the governance document. It is okay to say what is not working with the Schools.

Prof. Huber mentioned that the directors are doing things that are not stated in the governance document. The Dean is tasking them with things, such as facilities issues.

Prof. Abbott asked if there is a regular report for what the schools are doing? There is no responsibility for what the schools are doing.

Prof. Horan asked about the long term plan for the school. The Dean thought the schools would protect the integrity of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Prof. Thiel asked about transparency of the schools. If you can make good things about the structure, everyone will appreciate it tremendously.

The Dean stated that there is no grave concern about the schools. The schools function as a means of communication. Is there a way to make the schools more streamlined?

Prof. Crawford mentioned that the Schools came about as a political threat. He continues to support the four Schools for political reasons.

Prof. Lacy asked why we would have divisions and schools. The Dean views the schools as divisions.

Prof. Epstein asked about branding the College. Does having the four Schools inhibit branding the College? The Dean responded that the schools within the College does create confusion for prospective donors, which has led him to focus on fundraising for the College as a whole.

Prof. Porter saw a stumbling block with respect to how the Core has been broken up into various divisions. It would be more intriguing to have schools that have more generic titles such as (Creativity and Innovation, History and Tradition, etc) and not discipline specific schools.

The Dean wanted to use this time to have a conversation about the schools. He did not hear any great concerns. The four directors were applauded for their efforts.

7. Conversation on internships and careers

The Dean wants our students to get jobs and to get better jobs. The Dean recently moved Kim Nickolenko and Stephanie Gallo into the CAS Dean's Office. Kim and Stephanie are working with CAS students regarding career planning and internships. The students with liberal arts degrees will do well with job placement. Kim and Stephanie will develop programs that will meet your major. They will create specific programming for your major.

In Forbes, the President of Barnard College stated that Barnard graduates have an employment rate of 93 %. Fairfield's CAS graduates have an employment rate of 94.6 %.

Is the job fair for CAS students? Bank of America wants to hire liberal arts graduates. They can teach people finance but they can't teach them how to think. Faculty need to remind students that they can get jobs.

8. Update on the strategic planning process and next steps

Dean Petrino offered an update.

- **Motivation:** 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.
- **Process:** 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.
- **Speed:** 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.

The process involves Cross-departmental Participation

- All departments have appointed 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, 5 working groups of 6-7 faculty will form. Most work will take place in this small group.
- Each working group will focus on a single theme, taking as its starting the goals below:
 - Achieve High Standard of Distinction in Teaching and Learning
 - Support Faculty Research and Creative Accomplishments
 - Offer a Jesuit-Inspired, Ethical Education
 - Ensure Sustainability and Stewardship
 - Big-Picture Working Group (What are we leaving out and what we should do differently)

Each Working Group will:

- Draft sub-goals (if needed), action items, and a vision statement for their area.
- Create an action item 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 were surveyed for their areas of interest and placed on the working group that corresponds to their request, with faculty from the same department working on different groups. Working groups will meet to develop goals and draft them before next CAS Faculty Meeting

Goal 1: Achieve High Standards of Distinction in Teaching and Learning

Prof. Shelley Phelan and Kathy Schwab, co-chairs

Shannon Harding (Psychology)

Martha Lomonaco (VPA)

Steve Sawin (Math)

Liz Hohl (History)

Nadia Zamin (English)

Laura Gasca-Jimenez (MLL)

Goal 2: Support Faculty Research and Creative Accomplishments

Prof. Nels Pearson and Margaret McClure, co-chairs

Robert Nazarian (Physics)

Linda Henkel (Psychology)

Toby Svoboda (Philosophy)

Gwenn Alphonso (Politics)

Jerelyn Johnson (MLL)

Goal 3: Offer a Jesuit Inspired, Ethical Education

Associate Dean Glenn Sauer, Chair

Aaron Van Dyke (Chemistry & Biochemistry)

Janie Leatherman (Politics)

Alfred Babo (Sociology)

Sunil Purushotham (History)

Suzanne Chamlin (VPA)

Goal 4: Ensure Sustainability and Stewardship

Associate Dean Elizabeth Petrino and Prof. Carol Ann Davis, co-chairs

Matthew Tullis (English)

Jim Biardi (Biology)

Jonathan Stott (Physics)

Adam Rugg (Communication)
 Rose Rodrigues (Sociology)
 Nancy Dallavalle (Religious Studies)

Big-Picture Working Group

Associate Dean Elizabeth Petrino and Prof. Carol Ann Davis, co-chairs

Neil Brennan (Communication)
 Ron Davidson (Religious Studies)
 Irene Mulvey (Mathematics)
 Olivia Harriott (Biology)
 Matt Kubasik (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
 Kris Sealey (Philosophy)

Upcoming events regarding the Strategic Plan:

April 4, 12-2 p.m. Brown Bag Discussion: What's in Strategic Planning for the College?
 BCC 206

April 10, 12-2 p.m. CAS Strategic Planning Town Hall — Dogwood Room
 – listening and responding session with staff, faculty, students, and
 administrators

May 2, 12-2 p.m. Brown Bag Discussion: What makes the College unique? BCC 206

There will be focus groups with students and 45 minute sessions. Please send Dean Petrino names of students who should attend the focus groups.

9. Adjournment

Harding/Johnson at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Miecznikowski
 Secretary of the College of Arts and Sciences