

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 24, 2019  
Blackbox Theatre  
3:38 p.m. to 4:42 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 3:38 p.m.

There were 74 faculty members present.

The agenda was reordered to accommodate the Dean's schedule.

**1. Dean's Remarks**

The Dean thanked everyone for coming. The Blackbox Theatre is the home for the Theatre program at Fairfield University.

It is a remarkable time for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at Fairfield University. The College is welcoming 21 new Full-time Faculty members. This is an increase in the number of tenure-track faculty by five from the previous year. This shows the faith that the University has in the College of Arts and Sciences.

We have had lots of construction on campus. Associate Dean Glenn Sauer will talk about new spaces and improvements to spaces later in this meeting.

We are working towards new academic spaces and I hope this will include a new building.

Nationally, there appears to be a resurgence for the Arts and Humanities. If you look at *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, you see a remarkable shift. After years of diminishing the liberal arts, there is now a recognition that the liberal arts are deeply connected to successful careers. This is shown by our employment rate for CAS graduates, which is now at 98.4 %. Our starting salaries are exceptional as well. We have been developing new internships and new career and industry connections.

We have also launched the new Magis Core Curriculum. The Dean thanked Professor Shannon Harding and her team for the efforts in getting the new Core launched. He reminded the faculty that an anonymous donor gave one million dollars to get the new Core launched, showing a great deal of faith in our efforts. We have some work yet to do to get the Core to the finish line. We also have to make decisions about the Core especially in regard to new faculty lines and new courses.

While we have done a lot to boost the sciences and mathematics, STEM in general, the Dean would like to spend time to focus our attention on the Arts this year.

We all need to work with students to help them see the arts not as a luxury, but as a necessity. The arts can teach in deep and meaningful ways. The College of Arts and Sciences needs to shift and steer this conversation and to do so in partnership.

We need to remember that we are the only College of the University, and therefore, CAS plays a central role in teaching students cross the university. We teach about 65 % of the students at the University. We need to think about how we are presenting ourselves and lean into our responsibility. We want to be aggressive in what the arts can be at this university. We want to develop a vision for the arts at Fairfield University. The alumni have a generosity that most universities would kill for. They know that you the faculty are changing the lives for the students.

An example of this faith and generosity is the new Fredrickson Family Innovation Laboratory, which was opened in September. Scott and Susie Fredrickson are graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences at Fairfield University. This new laboratory will provide students and faculty with a physical and digital gathering space for interdisciplinary research and instruction that was so needed. The work you and your students will do in this space and because of it will be transformation.

The Dean thanked the Faculty for their work and teaching our students and for not giving up on the institution. He wished them the best for the new year and looked forward to the continued conversations around strategic planning and the arts.

## **2. Announcements from the Chair**

### CAS Strategic Planning Update

A survey of alumni took place in the summer of 2019. 134 Alumni responded. There were favorable responses across the board.

Highest scored Goal: Goal 1, Subgoal C: Promote and cultivate the self-awareness, confidence, talents and core career competencies of students approaching post-graduate career study and employment (79.1 %, Very Useful, 1.49 % Not At All Useful).

Lowest Scored Goal: Goal 1, Subgoal B: Implement the new Magis core curriculum to ensure a shared academic experience for all student that realizes the College's Commitment to the liberal arts, interdisciplinary study, writing across the curriculum, and social justice (48.46 % Very Useful, 5.39 % Not At All Useful).

The CAS Strategic Planning Working Group will meet to

- Refine goals and add at least one action item per goal
- Discuss results of the Summer of 2019 alumni survey

There will be a focus group with the CAS student advisory council and other students nominated by departments to elicit feedback on draft goals.

There will be a discussion and possible vote on Strategic Planning Goals at the October 2019 CAS Faculty Meeting.

### **3. Approval of the April 26, 2019 meeting minutes**

Eric Mielants/Marti LoMonaco. The minutes passed with four abstentions.

The Chair thanked the Secretary for his work. There was a round of applause for the CAS Secretary.

### **4. Teaching with the Arts**

#### **4a. Peter Van Heerden, Director of the Quick Center and Lori Jones, Director of Programming**

They gave an overview on how they would like to integrate the Arts at Fairfield University. The Quick Center runs 325 events throughout the year.

#### **Possibilities for Curricular Integration Opportunities**

- Faculty Liaison for Quick Events and Performances
- Open Minds Lecturer
- Arts for All: Outreach Educator
- Curriculum Integration – Curricular Connections Guide

The Quick Center is a Living Laboratory. Students and Faculty can meet the artist at work and in rehearsal. There are number of themes of integration: LGBTQ, World Music, Cultural Identity, Politics, African Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Psychology.

The Open Minds Institute is an exploratory classroom without walls presenting topical seminars and workshops. The classes are guided by master professors and are entirely participatory, seeking ongoing dialog between teachers and students as a learning partnership. There are new collaborations with Fairfield University College of Arts and Sciences and the Pequot Library this year.

The Quick Center serves over 4,000 K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Fairfield and Bridgeport youth annually.

The Curricular Connections Guide is offered each Fall and Spring. It is an opportunity to integrate learning into classroom practice. Faculty can develop learning opportunities such as in-class artist talks, gallery tours, access to artist open rehearsals, panel discussions, and workshops.

**4b. Carey Weber, Executive Director of Fairfield University Art Museum and Michelle DiMarzo, Curator of Education and Academic Engagement**

Thank you to Dean Greenwald for inviting us to speak with you today. I am Carey Weber, and I am the Executive Director of the Fairfield University Art Museum. I am going to highlight for you some of the exhibitions and programs that we have planned for this upcoming academic year that we hope will be of interest to you, but for more information please see the packets on your chairs and check our website.

Our exhibitions and programs cover a broad swathe of historical periods and cultures, ancient to contemporary. Everything we do is free, and open and accessible to all. We invite you to become involved by being a Faculty Liaison for an upcoming exhibition, by suggesting topics and artists for exhibitions, and by joining our Faculty Engagement Committee that meets once per semester. We exist to enhance the academic and life-long learning experiences of students, faculty, staff and the public, and we hope you will be inspired to partner with us.

This fall we have two exhibitions relating to French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Currently on view in the museum's Walsh Gallery in the Quick Center, there are 22 bronze sculptures by Rodin. Considered one of the greatest sculptors ever to live, Rodin's works paved the way for modernist and contemporary sculpture. Opening in the Bellarmine Hall Galleries on October 3 is a complementary exhibition, *Prints from the Age of Rodin*, as well as a modernist jewelry exhibition.

Among the programs we offer are screenings, lectures, workshops, and twice a semester Drawing Parties.

Some programs that might be of interest to you and your families are our mindfulness and mediation sessions in the Bellarmine Hall Galleries twice a month, and our monthly Family Days on Saturdays for you and your children aged 4 through 10.

I want to give you a sneak preview of our spring exhibitions and programs that will include an exhibition of Japanese lacquerware curated by Ive Covaci in the Bellarmine Hall Galleries and an exhibition of contemporary Cuban art in the Walsh Gallery. Among the programs planned for the spring are a Japanese Tea Ceremony and a Casino dance class.

I will now pass this over to Michelle DiMarzo our Curator of Education and Academic Engagement.

There are ways to integrate the Museum with academics (beyond VPA).

- Rob Cordery's Physics of Light and Color class uses museum lab report, gallery visit to learn what X-rays and IRR show beneath the surface of a painting

- Nazuk Sharma's DSB Digital Marketing class takes us on as a client to analyze our social media presence and identify potential marketing strategies
- This semester: 12 lab sections of nursing and pre- allied health students will be using Rodin exhibition as an extra-credit project for identifying anatomical structures
- Willing to work with classes in professor's absence → consider for planned absences, etc.

#### **4c. Prof. Marice Rose, Department of Visual and Performing Arts**

Good afternoon, I am Marice Rose, Chair of VPA, I teach in the Art History and Visual Culture program. Just to introduce you, especially new faculty, to the structure of our department, because it's unusual-- VPA is made up of 5 programs that offer majors and minors (Art History & Visual Culture; Film, Television and Media; Music; Studio Art; Theatre) and one minor (Graphic Design), with many core and elective courses in the first five areas. We have 12 FT faculty and 72 majors.

The Agenda item is *Teaching with the Arts*. I would like to reframe this as **living** with art, not just using, teaching, or learning it. The arts are an integral part of our existence. Art is where we deal with questions of the human condition, build empathy, resiliency, and compassion. It is an essential means of communication.

We have so many Faculty in the College beyond VPA who love the arts—you go to theatre and exhibitions in New York, you are musicians, painters and photographers in your spare time. We would love your help in encouraging students to participate in the arts here at Fairfield, whether by taking VPA classes or participating in events sponsored by the Quick Center, the museum, or our department.

Creativity, whether making something yourself or witnessing it, has inherent value as a human endeavor. Participating in creative pursuits can also help the mental health and stress management of our increasingly anxious students (and faculty). But creativity takes hard work, mentoring, practice, research, and historical understanding of one's art form. Academic courses in VPA can help train students to use their talents well, and to fully participate and understand what they are listening to or watching. There is faculty/student collaboration in all we do.

Our courses also provide opportunities for students to go off campus and see professional productions and exhibits, which helps broaden their horizons both in terms of art practice and getting out of that famous Fairfield bubble.

VPA events are open to all, and are an accessible introduction to art for students: Cinefest (student films), student art openings. Theatre Fairfield, jazz ensemble. Students are amazed when they see what their peers can do. The arts are radically hospitable.

Our students and faculty provide opportunities for the entire campus community to engage in art, in terms of interdisciplinary partnerships— just ask us how to get involved, if we have not

already reached out (Last year, for example Theatre Fairfield partnered with women in STEM and Psych/Math depts)

Upcoming soon is Theatre Fairfield's season. *Fortinbras*: themes include what are expectations of political leaders? What is truth? Keep eye out for more information via faculty announcement emails. Concert dates and film festival will be announced. VPA will brainstorm best ways to communicate events.

We in VPA look forward to working together with you.

## 5. Introduction of New Faculty Members in the College of Arts and Sciences

- Prof. Shelley Phelan introduced Dr. Navin Maswood from the Department of Biology.

Biology welcomes Dr. Navin Maswood, as our new VAP in our Anatomy and Physiology sequence. Navin received her undergraduate degree in Zoology from the University of Dhaka ; Bangladesh, and her Masters in Biology and Doctorate in molecular biology from Texas Woman's University. Her research expertise is in behavioral neuroscience, with a primary focus on animal models and neuropharmacology.

Navin does a lot of volunteer work locally and for an international non-profit working with children in underdeveloped countries. She also likes to balance that with a little Zumba and yoga in her spare time.

- Prof. Annemarie Iddins introduced three faculty from the Department of Communication.

The Department of Communication is pleased to welcome Ayanna Eastman. She is completing her PhD at the University of Connecticut. Her teaching and research interests include Health Communication and Public Relations. She is originally from Trinidad and Tobago. In her free time, she enjoys singing, exercising, and volunteering with her church.

The Department of Communication is pleased to welcome Bo Ra Yook. She received her Ph.D. degree in Communication at the University of Miami. Her area of scholarship/research/applied practice is Public Relations and Crisis Communication. In her spare time, she likes to explore new cuisine, visit museums, and attend live performances and opera.

The Department of Communication is pleased to welcome Wen Zhao. She received her Ph.D. degree in Communication at Washington State University. Her area of scholarship/research/applied practice is Public Relations (Corporate Social Responsibility Communication). In her spare time, she likes to read, go for walks in nature, and visit museums and cultural landmarks.

- Prof. Bob Epstein introduced five faculty from the Department of English.

**Kendra Andrews**, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Core Writing:

Kendra received her PhD in Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media from North Carolina State University. Her scholarship focuses on critical digital pedagogy, Writing Across the Curriculum, and empirical approaches to composition research. In her spare time, Kendra likes to attend live theater, music, and comedy—and hopefully there will be somewhat more opportunity to do that here than in Raleigh.

**Joel Beatty**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Professional Writing:

Joel received a PhD in Rhetoric, Theory and Culture from Michigan Tech. His main areas of study are professional writing, scientific and technical communication, and the history of technology. In his spare time, you can find him bicycling and hiking around Connecticut, taking photographs, and catching local theater.

**Phil Klay**, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Fiction Writing:

Phil comes to with some Jesuit educational background, having attended Xavier High School in New York City. From there he went to Dartmouth College and also officer candidate school, eventually serving as a Marine Corps Lieutenant in Iraq. After his military service, Phil earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Hunter College. His collection of stories, *Redeployment*, won numerous awards, including the National Book Award. Phil is teaching mostly in the Master of Fine Arts Program but will also be teaching undergraduates.

**Mary Laughlin**, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Core Writing:

Mary received her PhD in Rhetoric, Writing and Culture from North Dakota State University in 2016. Her scholarship focuses on first-year writing and collaborative authorship. In her spare time, she says, she is learning to cook. Mary comes to us from several years of teaching at Cottey College in Nevada, MO, a school of 307 students. Fairfield is a kind of homecoming for Mary. She earned her undergraduate degree at our sister institution, the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. If our retired colleague John McCarthy, a Boston College alum, were making this introduction, this is the point when he'd interject that Holy Cross was "founded on a bluff and maintained accordingly."

**Sebastian Perez**, Assistant Professor of English:

Sebi also has a background in Jesuit education, having attended Xavier High School in Manhattan before earning his BA and PhD in American Studies at Yale University. He focuses on Cultural Studies, Latinx Studies, and Ethnic Studies, with special attention to the work of Puerto Rican photographers in the Bronx in the 1970s and 1980s. We're very excited about *almost* all the qualities that Sebi brings. He is disturbing the fabric of our department by persisting, at least for now, in his allegiance to the New York Yankees. This was not totally unexpected when we hired him, given that he is a native of the Bronx. From a Mets fan's perspective, however, that is an explanation but not an excuse.

- Prof. Bill Abbott introduced two faculty members in the Department of History.

**Dr. Shannon King, who is in the classroom this afternoon, joins us as an Associate Professor with tenure.** The former Chair of the History Department at the College of Wooster in Wooster Ohio, Dr. King is a specialist in African American History, particularly Black freedom struggles. He has his Ph.D. from Binghamton University and is the author of numerous works in his field. His most recent book, *Whose Harlem is this Anyway*, was published by New York University Press in 2015. It was selected as the Choice Outstanding Academic Title and was also awarded the Anna Julia Cooper/CLR James Award for Outstanding Book in Africana Studies by the National Council for Black Studies. **Please join us in welcoming Dr. King to Fairfield.**

**Dr. Nathan Pilkington joins us as a Visiting Assistant Professor.** A native of Concord, North Carolina he has his undergraduate degree from UNC Chapel Hill and his Ph.D. from Columbia University. A specialist in Ancient History and Archaeology, Dr. Pilkington is teaching courses for us in introductory Greek, introductory and intermediate Latin, classical literature in translation, and seminars in the Honors Program. He is the author of a recently published book on Cathaginian imperialism, has a 15-year-old Chihuahua and never plans to run a marathon. **Please join us in welcoming Dr. Pilkington.**

- Prof. Shawn Rafalski introduced five faculty from the Department of Mathematics.

Please join me in welcoming Christopher J. Casement.

Chris joins us as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He has a BA in mathematics and economics from Skidmore, an MA in mathematics from Wake Forest, an MS in Statistics from Virginia Tech, and a Ph.D. in Statistics from Baylor University.

Within Statistics, he works on Bayesian statistics, prior elicitation and graphical inference.

Chris left a tenure-track position at Drew University to join the mathematics department at Fairfield and we could not be more excited! Chris is situated in Joe Dennin's former office, he's a huge sports fan and, in particular, a huge Red Sox fan.

Please join me in welcoming Nick Kapoor.

Nick joins us full-time after teaching part-time for the last four years. He has a BS in mathematics and Government & Politics from Sacred Heart, an MBA in Finance from Sacred Heart and an MS in mathematics from Fairfield. He is currently working on a Doctorate in Education in Higher Ed Administration at Northeastern, focusing on part-time faculty development and retention.

Nick served two elected terms on the Town Council of his hometown of Monroe, and served one term as Democratic Party Chairman (where he was the youngest local state leader in our state's history) and he is currently running for the Monroe Board of Education. He is a Commissioner on the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (appointed by the CT Speaker of the House), a state agency in charge of eliminating discrimination and prejudice in the state.



You might remember Nick in the news after he bought a Powerball ticket to illustrate the real-life example of the odds of winning to his Fairfield statistics class when that ticket won \$100,000.

I encourage you to google the words “Kapoor and Eric Reid,” and you’ll find a SI article that includes Nick’s detailed assessment of the odds of Eric Reid getting *randomly* drug tested six times in 11 weeks (during the time that he happened to be engaged in an acrimonious grievance with the NFL). It’s an excellent article.

One more thing: Nick serves on our Faculty Handbook Committee on NTT; he was elected by Fairfield’s part-time faculty.

Welcome in absentia: [Kimberly Barba](#)

Kim joins us as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics, and she is teaching right now. She has a BS in mathematics from Fairfield (where she won nearly all of our undergraduate departmental awards and was a Presidential Scholar), an MS in Pure Mathematics from King’s College London, and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from Teachers College at Columbia.

She’s commuting from New York and we are thrilled to have her back livening up our department.

Welcome in absentia: [Vincent Madera](#)

Vinny Madera, unable to be here today, joins us as a full-time Visiting Instructor. Vinny has a BA in mathematics and statistics from UCONN and a masters in mathematics from Fairfield. He has a wealth of experience as a teacher (students beg to get into his classes) and as an entrepreneur. Vinny is the sole founder and developer of a very successful multi-state business called Test Prep Wizards that focuses on SAT and ACT prep and academic tutoring; it has hundreds of clients every year.

Welcome in absentia: [Patricia Cunningham](#)

Patty Cunningham joins us as a full-time Visiting Instructor. Patty has a BS in applied mathematics and economics from Brown, a JD from Harvard Law School, an LLM in taxation from NYU School of Law and, in 2013, an MS in mathematics from Fairfield. Patty has taught part-time for a number of years and her students adore her – petitioning the Chair to schedule Patty to teach the next course required for their program.

Patty uses her considerable expertise and talent in a variety of ways serving the community. To mention one: for over 15 years, she has served in a variety of roles on the Executive Board of The Tiny Miracles Foundation, a non-profit that assists families of severely premature infants in Fairfield County.

- **Jiwei Xiao introduced one new faculty member from the Department of Modern Languages and Literature.**

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is pleased to welcome Luis Rodriguez Cortes. Luis received his PhD degree at The University of Kansas. His area of research practice is US Latino Studies and Latin American Literature and Cinema. His current research deals with the Latin American Academic Novel, which explores narratives that take place in a university campus setting, and are written by Latin American and Latino authors.

In his spare time, he likes to spend time with Oscar, his 5-month-old son, and to watch movies if Oscar allows him to do so.

- **Prof. David Downie introduced one faculty member from the Department of Politics.**

*The Department of Politics is pleased to welcome Adam Howe as a Visiting Assistant Professor.* He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Florida International University where he also won a teaching award. Dr. Howe will be teaching courses in Comparative Politics this year, including Introduction to Comparative Politics and Asian Politics. His research examines state-society relations in Asia, explaining how authoritarian regime elites manage threats to their rule posed by religious organizations. In pursuit of this research, he has received the Silas Palmer Fellowship from Stanford University's Hoover Institution and the Broad Research Fellowship from FIU. Dr. Howe has also published articles on political violence in Southeast Asia, focusing on genocide and ethno-religious conflict in Myanmar. In addition to his published work, Dr. Howe has presented research at many prestigious conferences including those organized by the American Political Science Association annual meetings and the International Burma Studies conference in Bangkok. Dr. Howe is an avid sports fan and outdoor enthusiast. Originally from Port Jefferson, NY, he is excited to return to the Northeast.

- **Prof. Margaret McClure introduced two new faculty from the Department of Psychology.**

Dr. Jessica Karanian joins the Psychology Department as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience. Jess completed her Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience at Boston College. Her research focuses on the cognitive and neural underpinnings of human perception and memory. Prior to joining the faculty here, she was a postdoctoral fellow at Tufts University, a visiting professor at Wesleyan University, and an assistant professor at the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Jess is not new to Fairfield University – she graduated from Fairfield in 2012 after following in the footsteps of her grandfather, who was a member of Fairfield University's first graduating class.

Dr. Kathleen Tomlin joins the Psychology Department as an Associate Professor of the Practice for the Industrial/Organizational Psychology master's program and she will help us direct that program. Katie has her PhD in social psychology from Princeton University and she researches interpersonal conflict, intergroup feedback, and ethics. She enjoys being back on the

East Coast after six years in Colorado, where she was an Assistant Professor of Management at the University of Colorado. She has been loving taking her kids to the beach, aquarium, and zoo. Also, baking is SO much better at sea level, compared to living at 7400 feet!

- **Prof. Scott Lacy introduced one new faculty member from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.**

Mehmet Cansoy received his PhD in Sociology from Boston College in 2018, following an MA in International Relations from Koc University in 2013 and a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Bogazici University in 2010. His work focuses on the intersection of technology and inequality, specifically on how technological change interacts with existing social inequalities. His dissertation focused on the practice of short-term rentals and how this new way of extracting value from urban real estate both reproduces and reinforces extant racial and economic inequalities in American cities. His research with co-authors has been published in *Socio-Economic Review* and *International Social Security Review*.

## 6. Facilities Update

Associate Dean Glenn Sauer gave an update on the changes in Bannow Science Center.

November 8, 2019 is National STEM Day. There will opportunities to visit Bannow Science Center and visit the new laboratories.

In Bannow Science Center there are

- Four new faculty/student research laboratories
- Two new instrumentation labs, one houses a new \$306,950 NMR Spectrometer which was obtained by Prof. John Miecznikowski and others in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Two new Anatomy and Physiology Teaching Labs
- Virtual Dissection Laboratory
- Seven new Laboratory Staff offices
- Three new faculty offices

Canisius Hall Renovations

- Complete internal/external renovations
  - Windows, HVAC, Roof Work, Carpeting, and Waterproofing
- Classroom upgrades
- Music Program relocation and upgrades
- Faculty/Staff office upgrades

Library Renovations

- Fredrickson Family Innovation Lab

- Digital Humanities and Social Sciences  
Directors: Scott Lacy and Shannon Kelley

#### Quick Center Renovations (Theater Program Expansion)

- Costume shop
- Dressing room, make-up studio
- Wien Experimental Theater
- New costume/prop storage areas on campus

If there are issues with the renovation, please send an email (with location in the subject line) to

Tasha Mehne ([tmehne@fairfield.edu](mailto:tmehne@fairfield.edu)) with a description of the problem

Facilities will evaluate and process in order of priority.

If there are General Facilities Issues

- Submit a work order
- Email Glenn in the Dean's Office
- Copy Jay Rozgonyi

Jay Rozgonyi and Glenn Sauer will coordinate with Facilities

Please do not send direct emails to Facilities personnel

Summer 2020 Planned Renovations

- Donnarumma Hall Renovation
  - Faculty/staff move out May 2020
  - Plans in discussion this year
- Film Program
  - Moving to Pepsico (late Fall/early Spring)

## 7. Adjournment

Profs. Bowen/Davidson

At 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John R. Miecznikowski  
Secretary of CAS  
2017-2021