

**College of Arts and Sciences Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

3:30 p.m. to 4:59 p.m.

Prof. Boquet held a proxy for Prof. Bowen

There were 76 faculty members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by CAS Faculty Chair, Prof. Harper-Leatherman

**1. Announcements from Chair**

- **Upcoming CAS Zoom Faculty Meeting for Spring 2021**  
April 29<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) at 3:30 p.m. The meeting will happen using Zoom.
- Open VISIONS Forum, Tara Westover, NY Times Best-Selling author  
**Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 PM**, [www.thequicklive.com](http://www.thequicklive.com),  
Access Code: **EDUCATED21**
- *Magis* Core Lecture, "Gender Matters in Black Lives Matter,"  
Dr. Gwendolyn Pough, at **5:00-6:15 PM** on **March 25, 2021**,  
[www.thequicklive.com](http://www.thequicklive.com)

**2. Introduction of CAS Marketing Team: Tess Long and Alistair Highet**

Dean Greenwald introduced the new CAS Marketing Team. Tess Long and Alistair Highet are now the support team for the College of Arts and Sciences. They will do a fantastic job supporting the College of Arts and Sciences.

Tess is an Assistant Editor for Fairfield Alumni Magazine and is an Integrated Marketing Manager at the University.

She urged everyone to share news for News @ Fairfield. It is important that we have your stories. You can share your news at [Fairfield.edu/accomplish](http://Fairfield.edu/accomplish).

There is a new automated feature where you can start new projects. You can visit this website to begin new projects. The website is [Fairfield.edu/short-form](http://Fairfield.edu/short-form).

One can find marketing project resources for Faculty at [Fairfield.edu/marketing](http://Fairfield.edu/marketing).

There are new self-service design options through Design and Print at My.Fairfield.

There is a new process to prepare posters for projects, events, and post-cards.

There is a new process for web text edits. Program coordinators can make these changes.

Tess encouraged everyone to use Marketing and Communications at the University and to use the Fairfield brand when preparing their work. She urged everyone to let Marketing and Communications know of their news often.

Faculty may contact Tess at [Tess.long@fairfield.edu](mailto:Tess.long@fairfield.edu)

Alistair is frustrated that Marketing and Communications does not get enough stories from Faculty. Marketing wants to get these stories.

The Dean reiterated that Marketing wants to know what is happening. Again, you can quickly share your news at [Fairfield.edu/accomplish](https://Fairfield.edu/accomplish).

### **3. Approval of CAS Faculty Meeting Minutes (November 2020, December 2020, February 2021)**

Since we did not have total votes cast to constitute a quorum at the February meeting, we have to revote on approving the minutes again.

Prof. Alphonso moved to approve and Prof. Downie seconded. (48 in favor, 0 opposed, and 18 abstentions).

### **4. ASPC Elections, Awards Committee Election, Interim Chair Election, and CAS Secretary Election**

There was an election for the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Representative for the Arts and Sciences Planning Committee. Laura McSweeney was elected.

The following faculty will serve on the Committees listed below:

- Behavioral & Social Sciences Representative for the CAS Distinguished Faculty Awards Selection Committee (three-year term beginning this spring)  
Alfred Babo, Sociology & Anthropology
- Secretary of the College of Arts & Sciences (two-year term beginning in the fall)  
Nancy Dallavalle, Religious Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies position on the Arts & Sciences Planning Committee (ASPC) (two-year term beginning in the fall)  
David Downie, Environmental Studies

- One-semester interim Chair of the College of Arts & Sciences (Fall 2021)  
Beth Boquet, English
- Natural Sciences & Mathematics position on the Arts & Sciences Planning Committee (ASPC) (two-year term beginning in the fall)  
Laura McSweeney, Mathematics

## 5. Faculty Research Minutes

### Prof. Mary Ann Carolan

My research and writing focuses on the influence of Italian cinema around the world.

This month I am finishing the revisions of a manuscript that will be published by the State University of New York Press which examines the way in which Italian filmmakers have represented China and the Chinese from the mid-twentieth century to present day in documentaries, historical epics, and dramas.

My other book project examines the intersections between Italian and American filmmaking. This summer I plan to return to the national film archives in Rome to examine the careers of American actors such as Clint Eastwood who were involved in spaghetti westerns, the radically innovative Italian interpretation of the quintessentially American genre of the Western. Quentin Tarantino's latest film, *Once upon a Time...in Hollywood* (2019), offers another take on such careers. In that film, Rick Dalton (Matt Damon) reluctantly agrees to travel to Italy to work on the *western all'italiana* as a last-ditch attempt to resurrect his career. This permutation, in my mind, reveals that the transatlantic cinematic conversation continues.

### Prof. Christopher Casement

I'm a statistician, and my research falls into two main areas – Bayesian statistics and statistics education – with a strong emphasis on statistical computing.

In terms of Bayesian statistics, I develop specialized statistical methods and implement them in web-based apps. These methods and apps support interdisciplinary research by enabling experts from virtually any discipline to inject their specialized knowledge into statistical analyses without requiring a strong statistical background.

I also develop free web-based apps for statistics education. Some of the apps are for instructors to use, while others can be used by both instructors and students. For one of my current projects, Laura McSweeney and I created an app for instructors who teach courses that include introductory statistical methods. The app enables such instructors to create new data from scratch and/or modify existing data for examples and assignments. The app also allows instructors to quickly make multiple versions of datasets if they use multiple versions of

assignments, and it's compatible with file types used by various programs with statistical capabilities (e.g., Excel, SPSS, and Stata). Recently I've been focused on education apps like this one in order to provide faculty with tools that help save them time when prepping their classes, especially during the ongoing pandemic.

## **6. Global Fairfield Update, Prof. Shannon Harding and Associate Vice Provost Jennifer Ewald**

Associate Vice-Provost Ewald reviewed the various opportunities through Global Fairfield for engagement with our different academic partners in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students attending these center programs receive Fairfield University academic credit and grade.

IAU France (Aix-en-Provence)  
 FUA Italy (Florence)  
 NUIG Ireland (Galway)  
 Queen Mary UK (London)  
 Comillas Pontifical University (Madrid)  
 Australian Catholic University (Sydney)

The programs are open to Fairfield and non-Fairfield University students.

Currently, the programs at Queen Mary and Australian Catholic University are suspended due to COVID.

In addition to our center programs, Global Fairfield has a suite of other programs that are approved through Fairfield University. Other opportunities include:

IQS Barcelona (Business and Engineering)  
 College Year Athens (Honors)  
 Washington Internship Institute (Study away)  
 Newcastle University (UK: Science majors)  
 AIFS and AJCU Semester Programs  
 Faculty led short-term abroad courses

The emphasis of the study abroad experience is on the academics. There is new language in the Journal of Record that relates to this. What students study abroad must relate to their major or their minor.

Students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 15 credits at an appropriate level of instruction for at least 4 days per week, and should typically enroll in 2 Core courses; 2 major or minor courses and 1 Elective course for each term abroad.

Coursework at Center Programs and with Strategic Partners is articulated to count for Fairfield credit and grade.

Academic Departments select their Preferred Programs for majors and minors.

Our focus is on developing and implementing programming that complements and supplements the academic programs at Fairfield University.

It is important that the work the student does abroad complements the work they are doing at Fairfield University.

There are websites where you can find information. The first student facing website gives a wealth of information where things are available.

**Student-facing website:** <https://fairfield.studioabroad.com/>

At this website, one can select strategic partners and see what courses are offered at each site.

At the Provost's page, one can find information about exchange opportunities and faculty-led programs.

**Provost's page:**

<https://www.fairfield.edu/about-fairfield/leadership-offices/office-of-the-provost/index.html>

The take home message is there is a wealth of information at the student facing website and the Provost's page. This is timely for advising which is happening now.

There was a UCC Subcommittee that reviewed and revised existing policy around course articulation. The committee worked to review and revise some of the outdated language on how courses are approved to count as a major or minor course. The database of approved courses will be reviewed at least once every five years.

This was reviewed and approved by Academic Council at their March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There are guiding principles encouraging courses in majors and minors and core to be available abroad. The guiding principles will be entering the Journal of Record as well.

The Office of Global Fairfield is meeting with Departments. The goal is to make things more understandable and to encourage connections.

The next steps for governance will be to work with school curriculum committees to create or revise policy that already exists for how short-term courses are offered abroad and approved.

The committee is working on course numbering and attribute issues with courses taken abroad. The database will be aligned with the Registrar changes. An advisory committee will be reinstated for ongoing issues.

There are workshops for Faculty Led Courses. These will be held on

Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: 2 – 3:30 p.m.

You can register using the link in University Announcements.

Now is the time to promote these offerings to students as these opportunities will be available in the Spring 2022 term, most likely.

Prof. Carolan asked for a clarification. The Bellarmine program was suspended for the fall 2021 term. Everything for the Spring of 2022 is completely viable at this time.

Prof. Striuli asked if students can satisfy Signature elements in the Magis Core when students study abroad. Students can meet the Signature Element requirements, but the faculty member abroad would have to apply for that designation. Anyone who is interested in offering the Magis Core Designation abroad can apply to do so.

Prof. Downie said it is extremely unlikely that the writing requirements or the social justice requirements will be met when studying abroad. Interdisciplinary courses are different because it is more likely because the subject matter is inherently interdisciplinary.

Prof. Alphonso asked a question to Ms. Ewald. How was the abroad program matched to a particular program at Fairfield University? Ms. Ewald said that the Office of Global Fairfield meets with the individual departments. The Office of Global Fairfield wants to find a good match and a good fit. Want to find a good match with departments. Some of the questions that are presented include: For students in a major or minor, what is the optimal semester to go abroad and why? For some majors or minors, the junior year is not the best year to study abroad. What will their majors accomplish when studying abroad? What is the best time to study abroad for students in their majors?

The second question raised by Prof. Alphonso is about faculty led courses. Are faculty led courses to other areas of the United States allowed? There are no faculty led courses to other regions in the United States right now. It is possible. Faculty will need to explain

where they want to go and why they want to go there and what is the relevance for the course. What is the optimal time for courses to be delivered?

Ms. Ewald said they are willing to meet with any department to discuss study abroad interests.

Prof. Van Dyke asked about visiting scholar opportunities for faculty. He didn't notice as many opportunities for visiting faculty. He is not looking to escape Fairfield, but he thinks it is a great opportunity for faculty who are looking to apply for a Fulbright Scholar award. Have faculty taken advantage of this opportunity? Ms. Ewald stated that each of the agreements with the center partners and strategic partners allows for the exchange of faculty and students and the collaboration of faculty.

Prof. Walker encouraged Departments to meet with Global Fairfield to find opportunities for their students.

Prof. Harding added that the Behavioral Neuroscience major is finding opportunities for their students with Global Fairfield.

Prof. Harper-Leatherman thanked Prof. Harding and Ms. Ewald for their presentation.

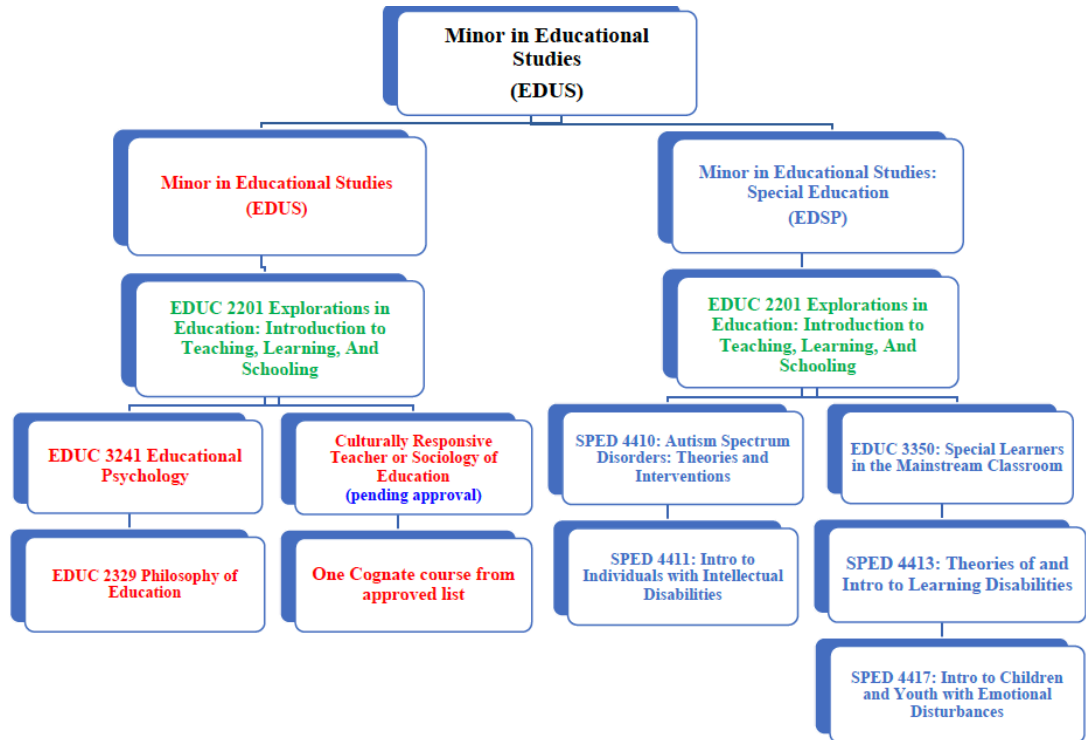
## **7. GSEAP Minor in Educational Studies Update, Prof. Emily Smith and Prof. Alyson Martin**

Professors Smith and Martin in GSEAP are both co-directors of the Minor in Educational Studies. Until recently, only students who were declared minors in educational studies or in the special education minor could take courses within the education program. Upon discussion, they have decided to open up several of our courses to all undergraduates.

The following courses are now open to all students (without having to declare an education/special education minor):

- 1) EDUC 2201: Explorations in Education: Introduction to Teaching, Learning, And Schooling
- 2) EDUC 2329: Philosophy of Education
- 3) EDUC 3241: Educational Psychology
- 4) EDUC 3350: Special Learners in the Mainstream Classroom
- 5) SPED 4410: Autism Spectrum Disorders: Theories and Interventions
- 6) SPED 4411: Introduction to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- 7) SPED 4413: Theories of and Introduction to Learning Disabilities
- 8) SPED 4417: Introduction to Children and Youth with Emotional Disturbances

There are two tracks for the minor in Educational Studies. Each is five courses (15 credits).



The minor in educational studies can lead to a five-year program in Elementary or Secondary education. If a student wants to enter the five-year program, they must complete the minor. All of the special education courses require field work.

The proposed minor in education studies link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M6vdEX8BPh7D-\\_yPu8hM1j9uKf3N\\_Npe/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M6vdEX8BPh7D-_yPu8hM1j9uKf3N_Npe/view?usp=sharing)

The minor declaration forms were reviewed.

The special education minor link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yxu-GaYHqhujBoeiSTZMI\\_DVC5eYdcMSmzAb2Orqxo/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yxu-GaYHqhujBoeiSTZMI_DVC5eYdcMSmzAb2Orqxo/edit?usp=sharing)

If students are interested in the minor, please ask students to email Professors Martin and Smith and they will send the form electronically to students and ask them to complete it.

Prof. Bucki asked about counting the philosophy of education course towards the philosophy core if a student stayed as an education minor. Prof. Smith answered that as of right now, this course is not counting toward a core requirement.



Prof. Walker asked if the educational classes can be designated interdisciplinary for the Magis core. Prof. Smith stated that many of the courses hit a lot of the signature elements and outcomes in the three areas.

Prof. Farrell said the Philosophy of Education class does not count for the MAGIS core. The Philosophy of Education class did count for the previous core. Prof. Smith answered that this was correct.

Prof. Harper-Leatherman thanked Professors Martin and Smith for their presentation.

## **8. Remarks from the Dean with Q/A Period**

The Dean thanked the ASPC for taking charge and moving business forward, even during this pandemic.

Everyone in leadership positions is giving thought to what the Fall will look like. The hope is that the level of vaccination will increase. In Connecticut, folks 16 and over can be vaccinated starting on April 5<sup>th</sup>. If College students are eligible in the Spring, it may be possible to have a vaccination program on campus—and we are exploring that possibility. This would change the trajectory of the virus. In the Fall term, we are still thinking about flexibility. If things continue to improve as we expect, we will flip our current model (online with some face-to-face) to face-to-face instruction on campus with the ability to pivot based online based on the virus realities.

The University has been cautious in our pivots to remote learning. The University's leadership has continued to make decisions keeping our community's safe and secure front of mind.

There will be communications throughout the Spring and Summer to update folks.

He is hopeful that the Academic Council will not have to meet weekly or through the summer. I again send my thanks for this important shared governance body for the exceptional work they have done in partnership with senior leadership.

The College submitted their budget. And while, as one can imagine, it was a difficult task, as we have changed the way we submit budgets in the past four years — each year edging towards a more rational and data-driven process. The Dean will let departments know soon where their departmental budget are. The Dean is using discretionary budgets to soften things where and when possible and necessary.

The Dean reminded faculty that there is a subvention grant available for research publication costs. The form is on the portal. Faculty can also contact Associate Deans Sauer or Lacy.

There is funding available in the internship fund. When I arrived, we did not have a way to support students who had a financial need who wanted to do internships. Many students were unable to partake in these opportunities because they couldn't afford it. Now, with the support of our CAS Board of Advisors and alumni/ae there is a fund that is available through the CAS Office of Career and Professional Development. So, contact Steph and Kim for details.

There is also funding for students who are having financial emergencies. Please contact Jean Daniele if there is a student in need.

The Dean is meeting with Departments or directing donors to meet with departments to provide direct funding and support for the work that you are doing with your students. When the Dean meets with Department Chairs, he needs to know the needs for the Department. If an opportunity comes along, the Dean wants it to be funded.

As you can see, CAS has stepped up its support for students and faculty, even in these tough times, especially in these times.

Prof. Farrell asked if there is a student internship application through CAS. Please contact Ms. Gallo and Ms. Nickolenko to access the funds. The form is on Life @ Fairfield.

She also asked about textbook support for students. Textbook support for students is also available by through a process and partnering with the bookstore.

The Dean thanked everyone for doing everything. The Faculty are juggling family and other matters, there is so very much on all your plates. I am very proud of all you do and it continues me to inspire me every day.

The DEI task force and Professionalism task force will present at the April meeting.

## **9. Adjournment**

Prof. Harper-Leatherman moved to adjourn and this was seconded by Prof. Boquet.

Meeting ended at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Miecznikowski  
Secretary of CAS 2017-2021