

**CAS Dean's Council Meeting**  
**Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Minutes**  
**Zoom**

**Attendees**

Dr. Bill Abbott, Co-Director of Irish Studies  
Dr. Jennifer Adair, Co-Director of Latin American Studies  
Dr. Gayle Alberda, Director of MPA  
Dr. Anna-Maria Askan, Director of Asian Studies  
Dr. Peter Bayers, Director of American Studies  
Dr. Rachelle Brunn-Bevel, Chair of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology  
Dr. Sara Brill, Chair of the Department of Philosophy  
Dr. David Crawford, Director of International Studies  
Dr. Carol Ann Davis, Director, MFA-Creative Writing  
Dr. David Downie, Chair of the Politics Department  
Dr. Robert Epstein, Chair of the Department of English  
Dr. Dina Franceschi, Chair of the Department of Economics  
Ms. Stephanie Gallo, Director of Career Planning for CAS  
Dr. Joel Goldfield, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures  
Dr. Richard Greenwald, Dean, CAS  
Dr. Sean Horan, Chair of the Department of Communication  
Dr. Matthew Kubasik, Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry  
Dr. Maggie Labinski, Director of Peace and Justice Studies  
Dr. Scott Lacy, Associate Dean, CAS  
Ms. Colby Lemieux, Assistant Dean, CAS  
Ms. Andrea Martinez, Senior Assistant Dean, CAS  
Dr. Margaret McClure, Chair of the Department of Psychology  
Dr. David McFadden, Director of Russian, East European & Central Asian Studies  
Dr. Irene Mulvey, Chair of the Department of Mathematics  
Ms. Kim Nickolenko, Director of Career Engagement, CAS  
Dr. Glenn Sauer, Associate Dean, CAS  
Dr. Kathy Schwab, Director of Classical Studies  
Dr. Kris Sealey, Director of Black Studies  
Dr. Kraig Steffan, Director of Environmental Studies  
Dr. Martin Nguyen, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies  
Dr. Nels Pearson, Director of the School of Humanities  
Dr. Elizabeth Petrino, Director of the Magis Core Curriculum  
Dr. Sunil Purushotha, Director of Islamic World Studies  
Dr. Marice Rose, Chair of the Department of Visual & Performing Arts  
Dr. Adam Rugg, Co-Director of Sports Media  
Dr. Jonathan Stott, Chair of the Department of Physics  
Dr. Katie Tomlin, Director I/O Psychology  
Prof. Matt Tullis, Co-Director of Sports Media  
Dr. Brian Walker, Director, Health Studies  
Dr. Marian White, Co-Director, Irish Studies  
Dr. Maggie Wills, Director of Bachelor of Professional Studies

1. **Dean's Welcoming Remarks**

2. **Discussion: Pass/Fail Policy Discussion.**

Colleagues discussed the recent P/F policy passed by AC for fall 2020. Myriad issues have arisen due to this policy, including significant concerns regarding the process that led to passage of this P/F motion. Key discussion points include:

- Asst. Deans noted time-consuming challenges associated with executing the process, which requires an manual process, but explained that the CAS Dean's Office is following the passed motion as written and intended by AC.
- Concerns that amidst the pandemic, P/F appears to becoming an recurring expectation
- Other (non-CAS) Schools are interpreting the motion and policy differently (e.g adding layers).
- Chairs asked for future AC clarification that this P/F policy was written during and intended for the pandemic (not for all future semesters)
- Current policy undermines/devalues the Magis Core relative to major courses.
- Courses designed for letter grades must now require faculty to revise/reconsider coursework and grading systems to meet this late-in-the-semester policy. Course designed for graded course is different from P/F design.
- The timing of the policy distracts students. They stop doing their work and start curating their transcript. Instead of focusing on exams and capstones, they are doing GPA management (adding more stress).
- Chairs expressed hopes that future decisions about grading (including P/F) would not arrive after midterms, and that the policy for spring 2021 be clarified as soon as possible.
- Avoidable withdrawals... many students withdrew before the P/F motion and then were upset when P/F became an option. They wish they could have remained and earned a P.
- The timing of this motion/policy was a central concern, and was raised multiple times.
- Spring semester modalities will require flexibility, and the Dean expressed his full faith in the agency of faculty to work out these modality and instructional challenges in ways that work for their individual pedagogies.
- Group agreed that Directors and Chairs (attendees) could reach out to members of AC and UCC to move on discussions or potential modifications for spring 2021. It was noted that UCC has a subcommittee that continues to meet and work towards a long-term P/F policy.
- The idea was raised that the MCC could possibly be excluded from spring 2021 or a permanent policy.
- One of the benefits of P/F as a permanent policy could be that we could deploy it to encourage electives and exploration.

3. **Adjournment**