

Arts & Sciences Planning Committee

Meeting of 29 August 2014

1:00-2:00 PM

CNS 8

Draft Minutes

In attendance: James Simon, Dean CAS; Brian Walker, Associate Dean, CAS; Aaron Perkus, Assistant Dean, CAS; Prof. Bob Epstein, Chair, College Faculty; Profs. Marti Lomonaco, Qin Zhang, Steve Bayne, Anita Fernandez

Regrets: Prof. Scott Lacy

I. Charge of the committee

Dean Simon handed out and reviewed the charge of the Arts & Sciences Planning Committee. There was discussion of the committee's role in relation to the Dean; consensus was that committee members serve at the pleasure of the Dean, and serve in an advisory role, rather than as a representative body who are required to give permission to the Dean's decisions.

II. Dean's prospective view of CAS

Dean Simon reported that he had had lunch meetings with about 40 CAS faculty, in groups of about 4, to share his views of CAS business and interests and to hear feedback of the faculty. With each group he shared both positive news and matters he considered of concern to the College.

Among the positive news:

- The installation of Lynn Babington as SVPAA, who he sees as not only highly competent but also clearly committed to faculty and to the mission of the College.
- 55% of new tenure track hires have been slotted for the College.
- The initial phases of the construction of a new SON building, the first new academic building in many years.
- The relaunch of the Humanities Institute, with Prof. Ron Davidson at its helm.
- The promise from the SVPAA to return the position of pre-law advisor to the College at the end of the current advisor's term.
- A vastly improved attitude among new administrators, opening up areas of the university, such as advancement and marketing, to faculty input and involvement.

- Stated commitments to make educational technology facility, commitment to mission, and diversity central to the faculty hiring process.

Areas of concern:

- An exceptionally, and unintentionally, large class of 2018: 1075 students.
- Only 7 tenure-track hires approved for the entire university.
- Considerable increase in the already large number of classes taught by associate faculty.

The Dean noted that all these matters should be priorities for the CAS faculty moving forward; he also noted that in the university's new commitment to portfolio reviews, the College comes out looking especially strong and valuable, which should prove an asset in institutional discussions.

III. CAS agenda

The agenda for the CAS Faculty Meeting of Thursday 9/4 was approved by the committee members.

IV. Meeting dates

The committee agreed to meet on Wednesday 10/15 at 4:00, in advance of a CAS Faculty Meeting on Wednesday 10/22 at 4:00.

V. Degree Works

In a final note, the Dean called the ASPC's attention to a new advising management system being introduced, Degree Works, for which he and others have great hope for improving the quality of the advising experience for undergraduates.

VI. Adjournment