

## Minutes for Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting, Dec. 15 2020

Present (via Zoom): David Armstrong (scribe), Josh Burk (co-Chair), Sarah Day (co-Chair), Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), Cathy Levesque, Jack Martin, Peter McHenry

1. We approved the minutes from Dec. 8 2020.
2. Updates from the Dean: Maria described her meeting last week with the NTE faculty, and how difficult it was informing those who will not get contracts next year, as well as those whose contracts are expiring in 2021 and who were informed that A&S is not currently sure whether there are financial resources to commit to new contracts for the 2021-22AY. All such decisions are being driven by curricular need. She outlined her ideas on restructuring the Dean's office, including reformulating the roles of the contact Deans. She shared a draft of a new structure and sought feedback from the FAC. This was also discussed at a recent Dean's retreat. She also discussed the new "E-sports" jump-start initiative for summer 2021. FAC members expressed concern that a new academic program needs to be considered by the faculty (EPC, and FAS as a whole). It was suggested that the FAC meet with proponents of E-sports at a forthcoming meeting. Maria also told us that revenues from the 2020 summer school session were significantly higher than usual (by a factor of  $\geq 3$ )
3. JAMOU policy revisions: How to respond to the concerns on the draft raised by the PRC? After Jack consulted with one of the leaders of the team that drafted the new policy (Jennifer Bickham-Mendez), it was decided that the FAC should do the edits to respond to the PRC, return the draft to the PRC to see if the changes are acceptable, and then have FAS approve the final version, perhaps at the March meeting – we would like the new policy in place by the end of the semester. David will have Faculty Assembly look into resolving differences between the new policy and the University policy in the Faculty Handbook.
4. Plans for reports to upcoming FAS meetings were discussed; it was suggested to ask the COO, Amy Sebring, to provide an update on university finances later in the spring, perhaps at the March meeting.
5. Report on faculty hiring practices in A&S (Peter): The report will be shared with the Faculty Assembly and with CCPD. It was noted that the statistics on failed searches likely misses some cases in which a candidate dropped out from consideration early in the process, due to having received a job offer elsewhere. The FAC thanked Peter for his hard work on this report.
6. RPT expectations (Sarah): are all faculty in all departments "expected to establish and maintain an externally-funded research program" as is in the present template for TE job advertisements. This was discussed as not being appropriate/relevant in all cases; accomplishment in research/scholarship is expected, but that need not imply external grant

support in all disciplines.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.