

## Minutes for Faculty Affairs Committee, March 30, 2021

Members: David Armstrong, Josh Burk (co-chair), Sarah Day (co-chair), Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), Catherine Levesque (scribe), Jack Martin, Peter McHenry

1) The minutes for the meeting of 3/23 were approved

2) Updates from Maria—

Maria provided a timeline and update on the DEI search.

She discussed the 5% increase mandated by the state and noted that although staff and some faculty (per contract) would get that amount, most faculty would get closer to 2% when issues such as compression and other required adjustments are taken into account. David noted that faculty should be made aware of this. He also pointed out that the raise was to take effect this fiscal year.

There was some discussion about the amount given for promotion raises.

3) April and May FAS meeting updates

Sarah gave updates on what she described as a very full agenda for the April FAS meetings.

She noted the inclusion of the motion for data Science to become a department was included. Maria is to present the motion. After some discussion it was noted that the request to the BOV for department status should be circulated ahead of the meeting so that faculty would understand what they are voting on.

Peggy is to provide a semester wrap up of several key points for the May meeting.

4) Requests for independent study

Peter questioned the Dean of Students request that faculty members provide Independent Studies for students who (early in the semester) fear they are not doing well in a course. The committee agreed that such requests were inappropriate.

5) Other business

Maria noted that the COVID numbers were up and suggested that we remind students not to get together inappropriately during the Spring Breaks days.

6) The meeting adjourned around 3:25.