

Minutes of the Faculty Affairs Committee, September 14, 2021

Present: Josh Burk (co-chair), Sarah Day (co-chair), Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), John Eisele, Peter McHenry (scribe), Marc Sher

The meeting was held on Zoom videoconference and began at 2 p.m.

1) Approved minutes from September 7 meeting

2) Updates from Maria

Maria will tell the A&S faculty that they will not be required to record classes.

Discussed plans for this afternoon's Town Hall. We will not record it.

Discussed Covid-19 spread among students. It appears to happen mostly in social settings. Cases in the past several days have not been rising fast.

Maria will clarify that faculty at their discretion may choose to hold one class meeting in a remote mode. But more than one day would require permission. The dean's office is trying to treat faculty equally in granting exemptions.

After the CDEI session at last Friday's CCPD retreat, vice deans fielded some questions about what "sustainable curriculum" means. Vice deans will communicate with their chairs and program directors about sustainable curriculum definitions and plans.

Dean's office has been discussing what "research active" means in different disciplines.

Peter lobbied for a waitlist option in Banner. Maria will ask Sallie Marchello if this is an option.

3) FAS agenda

We will hold a vote on edits to the A&S Bylaws

Some reports deferred from last meeting will be placed earlier in the agenda: Faculty Assembly, Council of Chairs and Program Directors, Faculty Affairs Committee.

Sarah will invite Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee to make a report

Discussed how to present Maria's forensic analysis of the prior DEI dean searches. We might have another Town Hall to discuss this. We might consider whether a written report would be helpful.

4) Departmental/program honors

Discussed the approval process for students to participate in the honors program. Maria met with Elizabeth Harbron about this and will meet again. This role will probably move from the Charles Center to the A&S dean's office eventually.

5) Athletics fee

Discussed Terry Myers e-mail about itemizing Athletic Fee in the Catalog.

Josh will ask Shannon Turnage about the process of editing the Catalog.

6) Other business

Marc gave an update about Banner problems. Mark Brush will look into this as FA chair.

Sarah noted that adding an instructor to a Blackboard course site is burdensome:

DocuSign and dean's office approval is currently needed. This makes it harder to have teaching buddies to cover classes in case of instructor illness. Maria will ask Sallie Marchello about this.

Sarah asked about diversity plans. CDEI suggested to CCPD that climate surveys of students are an important element of diversity plans. We might consider coordinating so that there's one climate survey of all students (written with best practices) that can be broken down by department or program for interpretation.

Adjourned at 2:59 p.m.