

Minutes for the Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting, April 25, 2023

In attendance: Suzanne Raitt (Dean), Peter McHenry (chair), Catherine Levesque, J.C. Poutsma, Marc Sher (via Zoom, for part of the meeting), Ayfer Karakaya-Stump (scribe)

Meeting started at 2:10 PM

1. FAC congratulated Suzanne for her appointment as permanent dean.
2. Approved minutes from 4/18/2023 meeting.
3. Updates from Suzanne:
 - a. A Strategic Plan for Arts & Sciences for the next few years will be put together.
 - b. The provost will pay for a consultant to come and analyze the Arts and Sciences Budget.
 - c. CDS survey was sent to the faculty; over a hundred faculty already filled it out. J.C. shared his concern that some of the questions are confusing. Suzanne suggested editing the introduction of the survey to clarify things.
 - d. New procedures to request and manage space will be put in place.
4. The agenda for the FAS meeting on 5/2 was finalized. It was decided for the chairs and program directors, rather than the dean, to acknowledge the retirees, using about a minute for each retiree.
5. Discussed Shelly Laurenzo's (Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education) proposal for 2-hour final exam blocks. Two points of criticism against this idea were raised: one, students might have up to four exams a day, and two, there are courses where the final exams take 3 hours or more.
6. Merit Guidelines revisited and revised: Added "academic and non-academic leave" for clarification, and the part about "anonymous faculty and student feedback" removed. It was decided to allow for another round of discussion of the revised guidelines during the next FAS meeting.
7. J.C. will share a survey with the faculty to recruit potential candidates for the appointed committees.
8. John McGlennon's resolution will be included as new business in the next FAS meeting. It was decided that John shall propose the resolution individually.
9. Discussed a confidential issue brought to the attention of FAC by a faculty member.
10. It was decided to continue meeting over the summer every other week via Zoom.

11. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.