

## **Council for Faculty Affairs**

Minutes from December 11, 2018

**Attendance:** S. Ladda (Chair; Kinesiology), K. Qazi (Computer Science), S.Scott (Philosophy & Modern Languages & Literatures), L. Trabold (Marketing), P. Abulencia (Chemical Engineering), I. Gerhardt (Mathematics), Q. Machingo (Biology), A. Annabi for N. Boliari (Economics & Finance), R. Kushner (Education), N. Jayawickreme (Psychology), N. Ozturk (Electrical & Computer Engineering), B. Berger (Religious Studies), M. Groarke (History & Political Science), M. Jafar (ABC-Law), D. Savoy (Visual & Performing Arts & Communication), P. Saboora (Mechanical Engineering), M. Voloviski (Civil Engineering), H. Laudien (English), B. López-Fitzismmons (Library)

### **I. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, was approved.

### **II. Approval of November 13, 2018 minutes**

The minutes from the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were accepted without corrections. A motion to accept the minutes was passed unanimously.

### **III. Board of Trustees October 2018 Meeting updates**

M. Groarke reported on the Committee on Academic Affairs. The overall target for students is 3400-3600; for the 2018-2019 academic year, we currently have 3,412, which is 25 under the # budgeted for this particular year; we have 286 full-time graduate students; recruiting for online courses is on hiatus; The School of Continuing and Professional Studies has 130 students. As for retention numbers, the college has a 90% retention rate overall; 80.7% of freshman continue to the sophomore year (84.4% from the Arches program). The main result of the Advising Self-Study was a call for the development of an advising syllabus.

H. Laudien reported on the Committee on Student Life & Admissions. The college has hired new Directors of Residence Life and Health Services, and is still searching for Directors of the Fitness Center and Public Safety. We have 1,842 students living on campus, with 89% occupancy in the dorms. This is slightly lower than past years, but strong in the industry. Update on the Gaelic Park Athletic Center (GPAC): \$2.5 million project, paid for through fundraising and a \$1.2 million donation to Men's Soccer; the GPAC will include a sports medicine facility, state of the art equipment, and additional space for locker rooms. Recap on Title 9: there was a language update.

A question was posed about the parking at the new GPAC, but parking details are unknown at this time. A concern was raised over the Student Government budget being used to cover Title 9 regulations for sports teams. As a result, student clubs cannot perform certain activities and new student clubs cannot form.

**IV. Sabbaticals (FWC Chair Jeff Horn)**

S. Ladda, the Chair of CFA, stated that the Faculty Welfare Committee has proposed to raise the maximum number of full-year sabbaticals allowed by the administration from 6 to 7, and to raise the maximum number of semester sabbaticals from 12 to

Motion was made to accept the increase in the number of sabbaticals. The motion was unanimously approved.

**V. Subcommittee on Faculty Assessment (Ira Gerhardt, Nuwan Jayawickreme, Heidi Laudien, Bernadette Lopez)**

H. Laudien reported on Faculty Assessment. The subcommittee met with Bridget Miller, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, who discussed the implementation of three surveys: the COACHE faculty survey; the Chronicle of Higher Education student survey; and an Institutional Priority survey. Following a description of the surveys, committee members raised concerns regarding the surveys' purpose and effectiveness. What about the response rates of faculty and students? Is Bridget planning on including adjuncts? Why not a pilot? Overall, it seemed that the surveys are primarily for administrative use (Assessment, Middle States, etc.), but the faculty is more interested in making the data "actionable" to effect positive change. It was decided that the Subcommittee should stay intact and try to get a sense of how the data could be useful to students and faculty.

**VI. Update on Honors Program (Heidi Laudien)**

H. Laudien reported on the Honors Program. It was explained that Brian Chalk expanded the program to include honors only sections of RELS 110, which includes a thesis project. He is continuing conversations with the Religious Studies Department as well as the English Department, which was against adding an honors component to ENGLISH 110 (all students have to take RELS 110 and ENGLISH 110). It was stated that Provost Clyde wants more honors classes to increase retention of top tier students, who are leaving because of a lack of an honors program at the college. MC has an "honors designation," which appears on students' degrees, but this is not enough. Moreover, the Biology Department has an honors freshman class, but it seems to be a dead end for students because there is no honors path forward. The general consensus was that the program is not faculty driven. Rather, it seems to have come out of retention, which is problematic and raises questions. For example, how will the program be funded? Same problem with Arches; faculty were not on board from beginning, and problems arose.

**VII. Faculty Development monies continued discussion**

The discussion continued about how to use the \$25,000 saved from moving the Faculty Dining Room from the Kelly Commons to Café 1853. A number of possible uses for this money were discussed. First was the idea to increase summer grant stipends from \$3,000 to \$3,200. S. Ladda, the Chair of CFA, noted that the benefit of this option would be to ensure the continued budgeting of the monies in the future. In addition, Maeve Adams, Chair of Digital Arts and Humanities (DASH) was in attendance to petition for \$10,000 of the money to be used for this initiative. She

explained that DAsH worked to integrate digital tools in the classroom, to teach students digital literacy and help faculty update their teaching methods. To participate in the program, faculty receive \$1K to attend a seminar (like a community based learning seminar) and learn how either to transform one of their syllabi into a DAsH course or, alternatively, to pair up with another faculty member to teach tandem sections of the same course, with students doing the linked assignments. Then, the faculty teach the course for an additional \$1K. The program is open to all classes on campus (5 DAsH courses will be offered in spring 2019), although questions lingered concerning whether this initiative would benefit all of the schools, especially since the movement of the Faculty Dining Room to Café 1853 posed a major inconvenience to faculty from South Campus. A need for a clear road map going forward was also expressed. In the end, it was decided that CFA would table the discussion for the time being. Shawn Ladda, the Chair of CFA, stated that she would seek clarification on whether the \$25,000 was a one-time or annual contribution to Faculty Development.

**VIII. Administrative Evaluation Report (Rebecca Kern)**

No report was given.

**IX. Faculty Activity Report Form edit suggestions**

S. Ladda, the Chair of CFA, stated that the Provost has requested any needed edits to the form.

**X. Parking**

S. Ladda, the Chair of CFA, encouraged everyone to contact Ira Gerhardt with feedback.

**XI. New Business**

No new business was added.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Savoy