2LSenate

College of Liberal Arts

March 20, 2017

**CC 3540**

2:30-4:00

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of Agenda

* The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm
* The agenda was approved unanimously at 2:30 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes from December 19, 2016

* The December 2016 minutes were approved unanimously at 2:30 pm.

*The CLA Dean arrived at the meeting at 2:30, which is when the Dean’s report began. The Moderator’s Report was conducted after the Dean’s Report.*

1. Moderator’s Report

* Healey Library
  1. Library Committee being reconstituted, chaired by **Jonathan Chu of the History Dept.**
  2. Moderator of Senate spoke with Dean of Library Services, who said there would be no further immediate cuts to the library
  3. Moderator noted we have one representative on Library Committee (Mary Oleskiewicz) but requested an additional CLA representative to sit on the committee (Hugh O’Connell of English has volunteered)
  4. Senators raised concern about the choices for cuts to library databases, the method by which choices were made, and the consequent negative impact on research productivity (2/2 vs. 3/3 load, tenure and promotion) and student research; also that other institutions in the Library Consortium do not provide remote access to the databases that were cut.
* Dean Terkla being reviewed
  1. Moderator solicited volunteers to review the Dean and asked them to contact her
* Moderator’s report was completed at 2:38 pm.

*The Dean arrived at the meeting at 2:30, and gave his report following the Moderator’s report.*

1. Dean’s Report

* REAB (Renovation of Existing Academic Buildings) is coming back in its new form.
  1. Substantial renovations of Wheatley classrooms are planned (Globe Newspaper article didn’t mention this). Classrooms will be revamped and updated. The structure of building will be modified to remove “nooks and crannies”; some labs will remain (such as Digital Humanities Lab, etc.).
  2. McCormack: 17 classrooms on 1st and 2nd floors also being renovated. There is no news about what’s happening to the McCormack theatre.
  3. Schedule: McCormack – 400s will be renovated Fall 2017; 600s will be worked on Winter 2017; Wheatley: 9 classrooms will be done during Spring 2018 and 31 will be done during Summer 2018. There will be a lot of noise; elevators and air quality systems also being fixed.
* Dean’s Report shifted to Budget issues.
  1. New Deputy Chancellor Barry Mills is now in charge of internal operations of university; Provost must report to him; Mills has said he needs some time to get things up and running.
  2. Dean has finished working out the budget for next year with the exception of the NTT budget, which will not be clear until after this week; he doesn’t know what the encumbered payroll for NTTs will be until this Friday, due to payment schedule. There may be more of a deficit that originally predicted.
  3. REAB will impact Anthropology since some labs have to be moved out of the science building; Anthropology is getting some space in McCormack.
  4. Senators raised concerns about the significance of being in “Quasi-Receivership” (which the Dean confirmed), and whether any aspects of CLA will be threatened and if faculty would have any input. The Dean responded that Mills is “not here to fix the short term or deficit problem” but rather “to help the financial side of the house communicate more effectively with the academic side of the house.”
  5. Senators questioned whether any of this would impact 2/2 and if 2/2 will be linked to the deficit; the Dean responded that this “has not been part of the discussion.”
  6. Another Senator asked about the Steinway deal; the Dean said Mills has said “we really have to beef up our funding.”

1. Transparency discussion

The moderator introduced Associate Provost and Dean of Faculty Emily McDermott (who arrived moments before, and invited her into the discussion about Barry Mills).

* 1. Senators asks whether there is any opportunity to get funds back that we lost for the library databases: American Periodical series has been cut by the BPL and other libraries let us use them on site (not remotely); faculty are being told to produce but the cuts are inhibiting/paralyzing faculty research. Dean Terkla responds by saying “don’t give up hope.” Senators point out that we are in a crippled state as researchers and that this sends a mixed message. Discussion ensues concerning the for need for faculty input as to what research databases are needed, what junior faculty need, etc. One faculty member suggests each dept. could get 2 essential sources, as a compromise.
  2. Moderator asks Dean McDermott if there will be opportunity for faculty to help shape future cuts in least damaging ways. Dean McDermott replies that she has been told by the Provost’s office that more cuts are needed; her understanding about the budget is that we will not get to a balanced budget this year despite stringent cuts going on in the past couple of weeks; she says we have been told we won’t be hit with more cuts at this point; that when she works with the budget office they speak different languages. She is trying to see if there can be agreement on all sides of the house; she says the essential fact is that the budget office only counts it as savings if you are spending less than what was actually spent last year. She told the budget office that the last 3 million dollar cuts are the ones that will kill us and these are the ones that will take 15 years to recover. She told us that at this time they are not going to go after any form of layoffs; however, she pointed out that the only way to close a financial gap in the millions is by reducing the personnel budget. She states that since 2008 we decided not to lay people off. We’ve lost discretionary money, and now we are down to the bone with nothing left to cut. For next year she says she doesn’t know what the decisions or strategy will be, but that if we have to turn all of this into permanent cuts it has to go to personnel cuts (unless we will be bailed out by new funds and that’s not likely).
  3. She stated that the only advice she can give is to read the faculty governance documents of the university to figure out where faculty have power and where they don’t. She advised against asserting authority where faculty have no right to assert power, and to instead demand seats at the table where faculty do have rights. She advised departments to go back to try to get curricular review underway that might have the effect of keeping programs and majors going, in a new manner. She noted that the student-faculty ratios are being increased and so it will be important to combine courses that are totally within the departmental sphere so that departments do not serve up under-enrolled classes at the 400 level, for example.
  4. A senator asked about large enrollment courses offsetting smaller courses: McDermott argued that those were only meant to offset 2/2 teaching load, not small courses with fewer than 12 students enrolled
  5. A senator asked about the basis of the number 12; McDermott replied that in fact we actually need 29 students enrolled for a course to be profitable.
  6. A senator asked about the fairness of having many more students over the minimum number for a large-enrollment course. McDermott suggested working out individual deals with our college dean concerning fairness and bargaining to offset small enrollment issues, particularly in smaller departments, but that there is no easy formula to turn to. She stated that each department needs to cut a workload deal/agreement with the dean that says you will give an average class size of x but then stop bugging us about our low enrollment course, etc.
  7. A senator stated that combining courses and removing pre-requisites to garner greater enrollments take away from the student experience. McDermott stated that each Dept should decide for themselves about keeping or eliminating prereqs and about combining 400 level and grad courses.
  8. A senator asked for some commitment from administration about minimum enrollments and if this number will stay at 12. McDermott says it will probably stay the same (so far no discussion to increase the number), but probably some NTT sections are going to have to be cut, and that we will have somewhat less variety open to students.
  9. The moderator asked whether there will be more cuts to Library. Dermott says there are not going to be more cuts to library.
  10. The moderated asked whether faculty can hope to have some input into planning for these cuts. Dermott replied that there is no time for that during a crisis – there is not time for debate; but that the budget committee was charged with coming up with permanent budget process that makes sense. She stated that the budget and planning committee of faculty council is involved in shaping the goals of the budget planning. She said we can all be involved in this group, which determines the highest priority. The basic premise in a “normal” state of affairs (which maybe we will reach by the end of next year) is that the faculty get very involved in the strategic planning as part of normal process. She said that right now a top budget priority is transforming ourselves into a 24/7 campus, because we are going to have students in dorms and sleeping on campus. She stated that right now new money is going to go into more security police, student counselors, etc. She noted that we have not been good at coordinating all of the different committees (strategic planning, budget, etc.) and that is part of the transparent budget process to which we are currently aspiring.

1. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following NEW courses:
2. COM 370 Advertising and Campaign planning
   * + approved unanimously
3. HIS 263
   * + approved unanimously
4. HIS 386
   * + approved unaimously
5. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following CHANGES to courses:

The following ART course passed unanimously:

1. ART 277

The following COM courses passed unanimously:

1. COM 255
2. COM 479

The following CLSICS course passed with 3 opposed, and 1 abstention:

1. CLSICS 387

Discussion centered on the question of dropping of pre-requisites for the purpose of increasing enrollment; faculty suggest negotiating with the Dean to except capstones from enrollment numbers. Sets up bad precedent. One faculty suggested we allow departments to decide on the questions of academic integrity. Many arguments for and against. A new committee was formed to protect capstones.

The following SOC courses passed unanimously:

1. SOC 104
2. SOC 262
3. SOC 337
4. SOC 338
5. SOC 339
6. SOC 351
7. SOC 363
8. SOC 365
9. SOC 368
10. SOC 386
11. SOC 461
12. SOC 462
13. SOC 474
14. Postponed: Votes on Motions from the Majors, Honors, and Special Programs Committee
15. New Business
    * + No new business was introduced.
16. Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.