Senate

College of Liberal Arts

April 25, 2016

**CC 3540**

2:30-4:00

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved unanimously
2. Approval of the minutes from March 28, 2016

Approved unanimously
3. Moderator’s Report:

Anything you can do to encourage people to join the budget committee would be fantastic. The other committees need people too, but the budget committee is in greatest need. Jim Dobreff volunteered.

We would love to get some people from CSM for the AAC, MHSP, and Standards & Credits committees, but unclear how many people we might get.

The Senate Executive Committee also has zero people. The SEC provides feedback to the Moderator, helping to anticipate and address any major problems that might arise. The main thing is to serve in an advisory capacity. SEC members also take minutes. It is important leadership work for the Senate and is highly valued. Solicited names for SEC next year: Sarah Keller (Art) and Andrew Perumal (Economics).

Please send Moderator and Kelly Ahearn an email if your department rep will change. This should be done by May 5. There are also 4 at-large seats for the Senate available. So if you know anyone that could serve (TT or NTT), please encourage him/her.

The CSM Senate has not yet approved the Senate Bylaws revision.

1. Dean’s Report: Same topics as talked about last time. The Dean does not have any new information about the graduate student assistantships. He has been frustrated with what he perceives as a lack of leadership on the matter. It is not clear what they’re going to do to the assistantships, and they’re already doing damage by this hesitancy.

REAB: Nothing new has happened since the last time we talked. The Deans pushed back on what they perceived to be unfair and troublesome decisions and so the potential move was scrapped. It’s possible that there are decisions being made that they are not involved in. From what he can say right now, the status as of right now is that they will renovate the HVAC and classrooms and that’s it.

Budget: It seems that the budget has not been revisited for 2016. They accepted the money donated back from CLA, so there will be no further attempt to get money this year. For 2017, the Deans are still pushing very strongly for an explanation of why the campus is facing a $25 million shortfall. How did we get to this point? The Deans have agreed to delay some hires, but now they are looking for where the pot of money is going to come from. The Dean doesn’t see where the savings will come from; with 80%-90% of the budget spent in salaries, it is not clear what will happen.

The other issue as of yet is semester leaves. None of those have been given yet, except in cases of full year leaves (half unpaid) because those save the university money in the given fiscal year. It is not clear if sabbaticals might be delayed to enhance savings for next year, but the Dean recognizes that this will cause great frustration for faculty.
2. **Question from a Senator**: Is this really happening [the lack of leaves] because if so, I’m looking for another job. This defines your whole trajectory!

Response: That’s right and is a valid argument. I do not want you to start a panic fire. I’m just saying that it is a possibility. You know that, because you haven’t heard and you should have heard by now. I just want to be transparent.

**Question from a Senator**: What about parental leave?

Response: No, they’re not talking about that.

**Question from a Senator:** Who has all the information on the budget? The President’s office? I’ve heard that CLA is one of the biggest money makers on campus. To what extent does that play into the discussion?

Response:You’re getting to one of the things that is crucial. From what I’ve seen we’ve gone up in enrollment. So certainly, we think that should be considered. The optimistic view is that this will lead to a complete reform of the budget process, which would be to CLA’s benefit. All I can say is I’m out there fighting; a lot of this is in flux. They (and thus, we) do not have the necessary information as of right now.

**Question from a Senator**: Do you have anything more to say about the graduate assistantships? It seems we are hurting ourselves if we are not able to provide offers as our numbers are going to go way down.

Response: This is the very point that he made at an earlier meeting. Certainly they agree that this is hurting us. They are trying their best to free up this money. What can you do? It would be great to have a policy statement from this body. It can’t hurt. To be honest, I don’t know how much it would help. But it wouldn’t hurt.

**Question from a Senator:** Do you know if the budget crisis is going to threaten the new hires in the Dean of student’s office?

Response: No. These are going forward. We will find the money for that.

**Question from a Senator:** So if we say there’s a 25 million shortage, what overall percentage of the budget is that?

Response: It’s about 5 to 6%.

1. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following new courses: Started 3:15. Ended 3:50
* HIS 377

Course on the progressive era of American politics.

Approved unanimously.
* LABCTR 111G

First year seminar. No concerns. Approved unanimously.
* MLLC FRENCH 265G

Approved unanimously.
* PERF-ARTS MUSIC 107
* PERF-ARTS MUSIC 108

These two courses had been tabled at the last meeting. Discussion centered on the gender inclusiveness of the courses and the language in the title and description. Senators offered suggestions of alternative titles and ways of organizing the two choruses so as to promote gender inclusivity. Senators discussed the logistical implications of these suggestions and compiled suggestions for the department to consider in revising the language of the title/description for the two courses.

Vote to table both courses passed unanimously.

1. Motions from the Majors, Honors and Special Program Committee to approve the following:
* Approval of MA in Public Anthropology

The dept. thinks of this program as the coming together of their two strengths: biological anthropology and cultural anthropology. It allows interdisciplinary approaches and connections with the public to be made in three concentrations: heritage, health and environment.

**Question about graduate assistantships:** The Office of Graduate Studies is discussing pulling back university-supported funding for masters assistantships. To what extent could you rely on external funding for these assistantships?

Response: Anthropology definitely has strong grant funding support. They are hoping that the university will match some of these assistantships. They are also hoping that community organizations will match some of these as well.

**Question:** How many would the department be able to fund?

Response: Right now, one for sure.

**Question about offering courses that are taken by both graduate and undergraduate students? How does that work?**

Response: They do not have that many, but the ones they have work well. It helps to assure enrollment goals. They will also be expanding their undergraduate internships, so they can work along with their graduate students.

Approved, one opposed.

* Approval of HISTORY BA/MA 5-YEAR

This dual degree program allows for both degrees to be done in a more condensed amount time. Two potential issues to consider is that financial aid ends the day students are admitted to the MA. If they decide to not complete the MA, the BA can be given retroactively. Students complete a regular thesis.

Approved unanimously.
1. New Business

Adjourned, 4 pm

Minutes completed by Luis Jimenez