
College of Arts and Sciences: College Council
Meeting Minutes

College of Arts and Sciences (COAS)

2-27-2015

College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2015 : 02 : 27

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University of South Florida St. Petersburg. College of Arts & Sciences., "College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2015 : 02 : 27" (2015). *College of Arts and Sciences: College Council Meeting Minutes*. 63.
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College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council Meeting

February 27, 2015 Minutes

Members present: John Arthur (Chair), Anna Dixon, Jill McCracken, Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, Donny Smoak, Mark Walters,

Guest: Alex Harris

Absent: Michiko Otsuki-Clutter (leave)

Meeting was called to order at 9:36 am by John Arthur.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for 12/12/14

The FC reviewed the minutes. Minutes need to be amended to record that Mark Walters was present. Minutes approved with amendment.

FC Vacancies for 2015-2016 academic year

John reported that there will be some turnover in council representation for upcoming academic year, and surveyed those present to see who would continue. Five FC members are scheduled to rotate off, leaving only 2 representatives continuing next year. This will result in loss of the staggering of membership, which is needed to ensure some continuity in the council. John asked representatives to go back to their department and ask if some will support a 1 or 2 year extension of service, so that there will be some staggered representation. He asked that we have resolution on departmental representation for the March meeting. Action: representative report back to their home department.

Vice-chair resignation

Tiffany Chenneville (at-large member) has resigned from the council. This leaves the vice-chair position unfilled, and means that the council does not have someone who will assume the chair's position next year. The council will need to replace the at-large member, and will need to find someone who will serve as vice-chair this year, and as chair next year. In the event that the council needs to have a new member next year assume the chair's role, John has offered to help out with advice on an ad hoc basis. Action: representatives report to home department.

Report from Department Chair's meeting with Dean Biafora

John Arthur reported on the following agenda items from the chair's February 26th meeting, and council members discussed the following items.

1. Introduction to new departmental program assistants and their roles
2. Diversity survey – what is diversity, what can be done to increase diversity on campus. Diversity includes research or travel in foreign countries. Advertising for minority students. Improve visual approach to campus from midtown and south side of campus. Need for outreach for more international students on campus. There currently is no faculty representation on Chancellor's advisory committee on diversity and inclusion. Discussion on other existing committees addressing diversity. Multi-cultural

committee needs students and faculty involvement. There is no CAS diversity committee. Jill McCracken pointed out that felons have difficulty assimilating to campus environments, and there should be greater outreach to them. She expressed interest in serving on a diversity committee.

3. Locks will be installed on Davis Hall large lecture rooms, with electronic switch at podium.

4. Alternate calendar courses – Dean Biafora asked chairs to consider creative scheduling, by offering mini-courses in future that could be completed using portion of the semester.

Action: None

Amendment of FC bylaws concerning student grievances

Current FC bylaws include establishment of a committee to address student grievances, but there is already a process in place that does this, with the Dean establishing a grievance committee with faculty and student representation when there is a student grievance. John Arthur recommended that the bylaws be modified to remove the following sections:

1.3.1.4. The Committee shall establish and oversee the work of an ad hoc committee to hear student's grievances in accordance with University policy.

1.3.1.5. The Committee shall investigate all matters of student academic grievance in accordance with University policy.

N.B. The above sections refer to the responsibilities of the Academic Programs Committee

2.2. The Council shall establish policies and procedures for adjudicating student academic grievances that are within the authority of the College.

Action: John Arthur made a motion that the college faculty vote to amend the bylaws to remove the above sections. Jill McCracken seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Towards an Academic Affairs Strategic Plan – A White Paper

John Arthur distributed copies of this white paper for future discussion. First campus discussion on this was poorly attended, and the other meetings were cancelled. Item moved to the next meeting.

New Business

Strategic plan goals for 1) balance between adjuncts, full-time and tenure-track ratios; 2) Distance learning; 3) Size of graduate and undergraduate programs

National adjunct walk out day – Feb 25th – on campus meeting in Verbal and Visual Arts to discuss adjunct issues such as pay, attendance at faculty meetings, benefits. Alex Harris spoke about role of adjuncts, models for hybrid instruction, sharing adjuncts across campuses and institutions.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Minutes completed and submitted by Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore