
College of Arts and Sciences: College Council
Meeting Minutes

College of Arts and Sciences (COAS)

11-18-2016

College of Arts & Sciences Council Meeting : 2016 : 11 : 18

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**College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting
18 November 2016
9 am to 10 am**

Davis 100

AGENDA and MINUTES FOR APPROVED

Council Members in Attendance:

Erika Greenberg-Schneider (Assistant Prof. VVA) 2016-2018
Jennifer O'Brien (Assistant Prof, PSY) 2015-2017
Adrian O'Connor (Assistant Prof, At Large) 2015-2017
Henry Alegria (Associate Prof, unaffiliated), 2016
Sheramy Bundrick (Prof, H&P), 2016-2018
Norine Noonan (Prof, BIO) 2015-2017, chair

Council Members Absent:

Janet Keeler (Visiting Assistant Prof. JMS) 2016-2018
Joan Reid (Assistant Prof, SCL) 2016-2018
Kathryn Arthur (Associate Prof., At Large) 2016-2018

1. Call to Order and Welcome, Norine Noonan, CAS Faculty Council Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Roll was taken.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2016

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

3. New Academic Grievance Procedure – (attached document)

The chair noted that a revised Academic Grievance Procedure (USF System Regulation 3.027) was distributed to the Council members thanks to the efforts of Dr. Rebecca Johns who sent the revised policy to the Council. The Council suggested that this document be sent to the CAS Department Chairs and posted somewhere prominently on the CAS website. The Chair agreed to explore how to get the document onto the CAS Website.

4. General Education Course Scheduling (Bundrick)

The Council discussed the apparent change in policy that would require all General Education courses to be offered three times per week beginning in Fall 2017 and that there would be few, if any, exceptions. The Council members expressed some dismay that such a major change was not, apparently, discussed with any of the relevant governing bodies (USFSP Faculty Senate, General

Education Committee, CAS Faculty Council), especially since the College of Arts and Sciences would be disproportionately affected. Student governance (SGA) also apparently has not been consulted.

It was not clear to Council members from whence this potential policy has arisen, what the “ground rules” might be, and how such a policy would be implemented successfully (e.g., there probably are not enough time slots and classrooms to move the entire portfolio of General Education courses to M/W/F). The Chair noted that the VCAA mentioned the potential for this change in his remarks in August and the impetus seemed to be to try to keep USFSP students (especially first-time-in-college student) on campus over the weekends. Many GenEd courses (particularly in mathematics) are already meeting on a 3 or even a 4 day schedule. In addition, more GenEd courses are being offered on this schedule in Spring of 2017 (faculty have volunteered to teach their courses in this pattern.)

However, there has been no evidence presented from the pedagogical literature (or from any reputable studies) that supports the notion that course meeting patterns have a positive effect on student retention at institutions like USFSP.

The Council members raised a variety of issues regarding this potential policy: how would tenured/tenure-earning faculty ensure sufficient research time; how will this affect our adjunct faculty; how will this affect other important courses such as laboratories, studios, internships, and student research; how will this affect faculty governance (as many committee and council meetings occur on Fridays); have there been any surveys or analysis of the potential impact on students who work.

The Council chair agreed to meet with the CAS Dean to discuss both the genesis of this policy and the strong recommendation from Council that there be a written communication from the Dean to all CAS faculty explaining what will happen going forward.

5. Compensation for Program Coordinators vs. Service Credit (Arthur)

Prior to the meeting, Dr. Arthur asked for clarification on the new policy that excludes faculty from claiming service for program coordination duties **IF** they accept monetary compensation for those coordination activities (e.g., graduate degree programs, undergraduate degree programs). This is a new policy implemented beginning in AY2016-17.

Jason Morris provided an example of a letter sent to faculty who have been performing coordination duties and he explained that the philosophy of this policy was that compensated service isn't really “service” but rather “other duties” that are compensated separately. He noted that the traditional interpretation of “Service” is typically activities that faculty undertake as part of their job duties for which they are compensated by their regular established salary. By accepting additional money, he posited that faculty were receiving extra compensation for these “other duties” so could not claim these activities as “service.” He explained that this policy arose from an interpretation by the USF System General Counsel's Office in response to a faculty member's (not at USFSP) claims of extraordinary amounts of service.

However, in response to a query from the Council Chair, Mr. Morris did indicate that faculty who perform program coordination duties may decline the compensation and in that case, they are allowed to then claim those activities as “service” for annual review purposes. However, it is uncertain whether faculty could substitute a course release for compensation. This issue was raised, however, it was pointed out that the cost to the College of a course release each semester would likely be greater than the cost of the proposed compensation.

6. Annual reviews for unaffiliated faculty (Arthur)

The Council briefly discussed the need to clarify the review process for the unaffiliated faculty members in CAS (formerly members of the dissolved Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Geography). The process for the annual review of these individuals did not seem to include a peer committee, although it was clear that the reviewing authority within the College was still the Dean.

The Chair of the Council agreed to bring up this issue with the Dean (in person) in the interests of clarifying the process before the Annual Review process for 2016 begins in the Spring.

7. Dates and Issues for Spring 2017 Meetings (Noonan)

The Council Chair asked the members to advise her of department meeting dates and/or personal commitments of Council Members for Spring Semester 2017 so that meeting dates for Spring could be set at the meeting on December 9, 2016.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Norine Noonan
Council chair

Next meeting: December 9, 2016, 9 am, DAV 100

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9 am to 10 am

Davis 100

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Welcome, Norine Noonan , CAS Faculty Council Chair
2. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2016 Meeting (Minutes attached)
3. New Academic Grievance Procedure – (attached document) – Informational
3. General Education Course Scheduling (Bundrick)
4. Compensation for Program Coordinators vs. Service Credit (Arthur) – Discussion (I am trying to get the appointment letter template) -- Discussion
5. Annual reviews for unaffiliated faculty (Arthur) -- Discussion
6. Dates and Issues for Spring 2017 Meetings (Noonan) – Please bring your calendars
6. Adjourn