

ARTS & SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 @ 3:30 Minutes

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

ASFC Present: Josh Habiger (STAT, Chair), Yolanda Vasquez (CHEM, Vice Chair), Graig Uhlin (ENGL, Secretary), Skye Cooley (MSC), Valerie Freeman (CDIS), Eric Lopresti (PBIO), Kristin Olofsson (POLI), Eric Barker (THEA), Jim Knapp (GEO), Mostafa Elshahed (MBIO), Rachel Schmitz (SOC), Sarah Kucker (PYSCHE, proxy for Misty Hawkins), Joe Haley (PHYS), Lisa Mantini (MATH), Sarah Griswold (HIST), Erin Murphy (MUSIC), Andy Dzialowski (INBIO), Jon Ellis (LANG)

ASFC Absent: Johnson Thomas (CSCI), Reuel Hanks (GEO), Apple Igrek (PHIL), Brandon Reese (ART)

Administration Present: Dean Glen Krutz, Associate Dean Rebecca Brienen, Assistant Dean Craig Freeman, Associate Dean Andrew Doust

Guests: Ahmed Ismail (Physics), Stephen Perkins (Faculty Council), Cynthia Francisco (MATH, NTT rep)

3. Approval of December 2021 Minutes

Joe Haley motion, Olofsson seconds
Motion approves

4. Dean's Report

Dean Krutz reports that CAS spring semester enrollment looks strong at around 118,000 credit hours, serving a little more than 13,000 unduplicated students. Fall-to-spring retention rates are level with last year.

Physical Sciences has continuing construction to update their laboratory facilities.

CAS met its fundraising goals for fiscal year '22 by the end of calendar year '21.

Dean Krutz highlighted the expansion of the CAS Humanities Initiative into a new Center for the Humanities, to be led by interim director Jennifer Borland. There is an endowed \$1 million gift to help establish that center, but as an estate gift, the funds are prospective.

Also highlighted the permanent space established for the Center for Africana Studies in the Life Science building.

5. Old Business

None

6. Administrative Response to Bias Incident

Ahmed Ismail, Assistant Professor of Physics, shared his experience of receiving a racially inflammatory and harassing email from an anonymous student, and his frustrations with the lack of an administrative response to the incident, which involved months of delayed or canceled meetings. The email was judged by the administration not to violate the Student Code of Conduct. Ismail shared his concern of the chilling effect these incidents have on student and faculty retention.

Kristin Olofsson, of the College Policy and Planning committee, reported with the Equity Advocates Council, to address policies and procedures for issues related to discrimination and harassment. The problem is that there is no direct or clear way to report diversity-related harassment. Gender and sexual harassment is addressed by the faculty handbook, but not issues related to race and ethnicity. The committee is drafting a 'best practices' document to make recommendations for institutional responses to bias incidents.

Habiger and Vasquez raised the prospect of forming an ad-hoc committee to address these issues, in collaboration with Equity Advocates. Dean Brienen shared OU's policy as a model that OSU might follow. Jim Knapp suggested hiring an external third party evaluate the larger campus climate on bias issues.

The discussion was tabled for time.

7. ASFC Committee Reports

a. College Policy and Planning – Kristin Olofsson
See above

b. Curriculum, General Education and Extension – Freeman reporting for Joe Haley

Freeman reported that the committee has met with ITLE, the Registrar's Office, and Associate Dean Doust to discuss possibility for long-term plans for online hybrid teaching – essentially, the development of a "high flex" model that would allow students to register for and attend class either virtually or in-person, rather than being locked into one option only. There does already exist the option for an in-person class to have a cross-listed online version of the course, but it does not have the flexibility of the high flex option. The committee seeks feedback on the needs of faculty.

c. Rules and Procedures – Lisa Mantini

The committee met to discuss edits to the ASFC charter and bylaws with the intention of recommending changes to allow representation for non-tenure-track/career-track faculty on the council. There are questions to resolve about membership on standing committees (whether to widen participation across ranks) and how to create a structure for conducting elections, given that NTT representatives will have been drawn from the pillars of the college rather from specific units.

d. Scholarship – Skye Cooley

No report

e. Ad-Hoc Committee on NTT Faculty – Cynthia Francisco
Held a January open meeting of NTT faculty.

6. Other Reports

a. Faculty Council Pandemic Special Committee – Knapp

Reported that a COVID equity working group has been formed, chaired by Karen Flaherty of the Spears School of Business to address long-term issues related to faculty as it pertains to COVID policies.

b. General Faculty Council – Stephen Perkins

Announced that their next meeting will be held on March 8. Indicated that there were three vacancies on UFC for CAS slots, and nomination petitions are due by March 10 at noon.

c. Equity Advocates – Habiger reporting for Emma Draves

Highlighted ongoing committee work related to inequalities in new hires, HB 1775 and academic freedom, a leave-sharing program, and recommendations on bias incident reporting.

d. Women's Faculty Council – Habiger reporting for Erin Dyke

Holding a research symposium and awards ceremony on March 9

7. Announcements

ASFC's next meeting will be held on April 6 via Zoom.

Current COVID statistics:

29 known active cases, UHS positivity rate 2.1%

Motion to adjourn

Haley motions

Mantini seconds

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm