



Wednesday, September 11, 2019

3:00 – 4:00 pm

206A – Coke Building

In Attendance: Debbie Carlson (ANTH), Hart Blanton (COMM), Manuelita Ureta (ECON), Claire Carly-Miles (ENGL), Stephen Miller (HISP), Maddalena Cerrato (INTS), David Wilborn (PERF), Gary Varner (PHIL), Nehemia Geva (POLS), Patrick Bolger (PBSI), Theresa Morris (SOCI); At-Large: Jonathan Coopersmith (HIST), Catharina Laporte (ANTH), Jennifer Wollock (ENGL)

Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting

October 9, 2019

Discussion

MINUTES: The meeting was convened at 3:10 p.m.

- Elections for officers on Steering and Elections Committee

In the absence of Dean Matthews, Maddalena C. explained that the primary agenda item was to elect the three members of the Steering and Elections Committee. Jonathan C. nominated himself for the position of At-Large member. Gary V. nominated Maddalena C. for the position of Chair Pro Tempore. Maddalena C. nominated Debbie C. for the position of Secretary.

These members were elected unanimously to form the LAC Steering and Elections Committee:

Maddalena Cerrato (Chair Pro Tempore)

Debbie Carlson (Secretary)

Jonathan Coopersmith (At-Large Member)

- Planning for the work of the Committee as 'service Taskforce'

Maddalena C. raised the second agenda item, which was to revisit the April 2019 discussion of forming a task force to explore how departments across the College approach, evaluate, and acknowledge service. Stephen M. asked whether this was an issue best decided at the departmental level, in the Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure.

A lively discussion followed, which included consideration of statistics suggesting that (a) women are doing more service than men at a national level, and (b) minority groups are especially saddled with service obligations when they are few and in high demand as representatives. Lingering questions included (a) whether junior faculty are held to the same service expectations across departments, (b) whether tenure-track and APT faculty are held to

the same service expectations across departments, and (c) whether we need a mechanism to ensure accountability / verify participation in service obligations.

The discussion concluded with a general consensus that a constructive first step would be the collection from each department of (a) demographic (race / gender) data and (b) bylaws or other administrative documents regarding service expectations and rewards.

New members were encouraged to consult the College bylaws in order to familiarize themselves with the responsibilities of the LAC and the process of setting the agenda for LAC meetings: <https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/app/uploads/2019/02/CLLA-Bylaws-of-12-2018.pdf>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

For Your Information or Consideration

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Reminders

- October 24, 2019 – Dean's Recognition Reception (Faculty Awards) – Annenberg at 5:00 pm