



Liberal Arts Council

Wednesday, October 14, 2020**3:00 – 4:00 pm****Via Zoom****Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting****November 11, 2020**

In Attendance: Pam Matthews (Dean), Departmental Reps: Debbie Carlson (ANTH), Jennifer Mercieca (COMM), Manuelita Ureta (ECON), William Clark (ENGL), Jason Parker (HIST), Maddalena Cerrato (INTS), Andrea Imhoff (PERF), Kenneth Easwaran (PHIL), Robert Harmel (POLS), Patrick Bolger (PBSI), Patricia Thornton (SOCI); At-Large Members: Leonardo Cardoso, Emily Johansen, Sena Karasipahi, Catharina Laporte, Theresa Morris, Roger Reese; Staff: Sarah Coppedge

Discussion

- Dean Pam M. called the ZOOM meeting to order promptly at 3:00pm
- Following the agenda, Pam M. queried LAC members about schedule conflicts with the 3:00pm meeting time, owing to the fact that traditional class times have been revised and passing periods have been extended due to COVID-19. The query indicated that Steve Miller (HISP) was the only member with a teaching conflict this semester. Pam M. urged LAC members to inform their departments about their obligation to LAC to prevent any scheduling conflicts during the Spring semester.
- Maddalena C. brought forth the next agenda item, concerning the intentions of some faculty to propose hybrid or online classes as permanent additions to the course catalog. This elicited a series of comments about the challenges and pitfalls of online teaching. Other comments addressed the unexpected positives of online teaching, including the ability to consult recordings and the ease of bringing guest speakers to the virtual classroom. Pam M. concluded that it is still too soon to predict what effective teaching will look like in the future or how many temporary adjustments will become permanent. Pam M. also indicated that we will be having conversations about what we have learned, what worked well, and what did not.
- Pam M. explained that the draft report on best practices for evaluating faculty service prepared by LAC members Theresa M. and Hart B. (Feb 2020) had been handed off to a task force chaired by administrative fellow Heather Lench.
- Pam M. updated the LAC on plans to conduct a search for a new TAMU President. President Young has indicated he intends to leave the job on May 31, 2021. A presidential search is not traditional in that a firm (in this case Isaacson, Miller) is hired to identify and recommend the best candidates.
- The ZOOM meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.