# Liberal Arts Council

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts

| Wednesday, January 13, 2021<br>3:30 – 4:30 pm<br>Via Zoom | Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting<br>February 10, 2021 |
|---|---|
| In Attendance: Pam Matthews (Dean), Departmental Reps: Debbie Carlson (ANTH), Jennifer Mercieca (COMM), Manuelita Ureta (ECON), Steve Miller (HISP), Jason Parker (HIST), Maddalena Cerrato (INTS), Andrea Imhoff (PERF), Kenny Easwaran (PHIL), Bob Harmel (POLS), Patrick Bolger (PBSI), Pat Thornton (SOCI); At-Large Members: 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 3:30pm. The meeting started 30 minutes late to give LAC members the opportunity to attend the Vice Provost's panel on academic misconduct.

- Addressing a question posed by Steve M., Pam M. provided an update on the Dean Search, referring LAC members to SAP Rule 12.99.99.M0.02 regarding Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Deans. Pam M. suggested that it was unlikely for the Dean Search to get underway before the next permanent (non-interim) President is hired and Provost appointed. There is reason to believe that those positions may be filled by the end of the Spring semester.

- Pam M. raised the topic of an article that appeared in the January 12 issue of the *Eagle* newspaper, concerning the recent dismissal of one faculty member in ANTH and the reprimand of another in ANTH. Pam M. urged all LAC members to be aware of SAP Rule 31.99.99.MO.01 regarding the Delegation of Authority Matrix and the corresponding routing procedure. Several faculty asked questions about information presented in the *Eagle* article. Pam M. encouraged everyone to read critically, and be aware of the differences between Free Speech as defined by the First Amendment and Academic Freedom as defined by the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom.

- Catharina L. posed a question about reviving the Common Ground book initiative. Pam M. agreed that the Common Ground mission was positive but if the students did not read the book then it was difficult to determine what was being accomplished. Pam M. suggested that the Common Ground initiative needs to be adapted to current circumstances and may be revisited in conjunction with strategic planning.

- The ZOOM meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.