



## Liberal Arts Council

**Wednesday, November 11, 2020**

**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Via Zoom**

**Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting**

**December 9, 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), Jon Bond [for R. Harmel] (POLS), Patrick Bolger (PBSI), Patricia Thornton (SOCl); At-Large Members: 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. reminded LAC members to check the Spring 2021 schedule of courses in HOWDY to ensure that their class times are correct and there are no conflicts with LAC meeting times.
- Pam M. shared with LAC members a draft version of the *College of Liberal Arts Guidelines for Faculty Evaluation* which will be incorporated into a document prepared by the DOF in anticipation of the SACS reaccreditation visit in 2021/22.
- Pam M. announced the creation of a College Committee on Faculty Awards composed of the following faculty: Catherine Eckel (ECON, Chair), Marian Eide (ENGL), Dinah Hannaford (INTS), Glen Miller (PHIL), Jessica Bernard (PBSI), Matt Fuhrmann (POLS), and Josh Harms (CLLA ex officio, nonvoting). Pam M. explained the goal of the Award Committee is to help identify faculty strengths early on and prepare/promote individuals for national awards. The Committee will use the DOF award calendar as a model and build on it. The general response to this announcement was enthusiastic; some faculty noted the frustration of trying to compete with high-quality applications from other universities where similar committees exist and stand ready with lists of potential nominees in hand.
- Discussion turned toward the logistics of in-person graduation on December 9 given the requirements of social distancing. There was also discussion of COVID-19 testing availability during the winter break.
- Pam M. updated the LAC on revisions to the wording of the policy for travel requests involving university funds. She explained that some travel requests can be approved if the specific circumstances that do not compromise COVID-19 guidelines. The College is trying to provide additional financial support to students whose research and degree completion have been negatively impacted.
- The ZOOM meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.