



## Liberal Arts Council

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021****3:00 – 4:00 pm****Via Zoom****Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting****November 13, 2021**

In Attendance: Carlson, Debbie; Merceica, Jennifer; Ureta, Manuelita; Ezell, Margaret; Miller, Steve; Kim, Hoi-eun; Hemmig, Christopher; Imhoff, Andrea; Easwaran, Kenny; Harmel, Robert; Bolger, Patrick; Thornton, Pat; Dubriwny, Tasha (COMM); Humphrey, Daniel (PERF), Johansen, Emily (ENGL), Laporte, Catharina (ANTH), Morris, Theresa (WGST), Reese, Roger (HIST) Oberhelman, Steve; Garcia, Annette

**Discussion**

- Officer Elections – all
  - Voting via Zoom poll on Steering Committee positions
  - All candidates were elected
    - Catharina LaPorte: Chair
    - Patrick Bolger: Secretary
    - Steve Miller: At-large
  
- Updates from the Interim Dean
  - The associate deans are the same from last year to this year
    - Leroy Dorsey will serve for this semester only for Dean of Climate & Inclusion. He has also assumed Associate Dean for Undergraduate Ed.
    - They're going to search for a new C&I Dean (50%)
    - The announcement will go out soon
    - Nominations are encouraged
  - New Provost
    - Mark Weichold resigned for reasons of professional opportunities elsewhere
  - The President's email
    - Search committee for the new Dean
      - 100% assurance that SO will not be a candidate
      - There are many interim Deans across the university (~9), so searches may be staggered over time
    - COVID testing
      - Latest figures (Aug Sep - 4 Sep)
        - 22,000 tests
        - 1,124 were positive
        - doesn't include self-reports of exposure or symptomatic but not tests
        - ~5% positivity across the board
      - Is this sustainable?
        - Not clear what's going to happen with classes
        - That said, Delta is extremely contagious
  
- Q&A with Interim Dean
  - Much more data about Covid is going to come in quite soon
  - EJ: For something to count f2f, we were told you have to have 51% of classes f2f. Was

that information incorrect? Anxiety about in-person teaching seems to be rampant.

- That 51/49 has to be qualified. The rule about 51% of a class needing to be taught in person is restricted to the definition for course-planning purposes. It is \*not\* for deciding to change course delivery after the course has been designated to be taught in a certain way. The Provost has now said that we can't change the format of the course. Please be careful. Don't abuse the freedom that faculty have.
- Teaching outside
  - SO was concerned that some of those classes were not social distancing
- Advice from Manuelita
  - Put Neosporin in your nose
  - wear a mask
  - thrown the mask out after class
- CL: talked about her strategies to increase mask wearing.
- AI: related low mask-wearing in her classes
- TM: We should look at the bylaws
  - Interdisciplinary programs in the College are independent now. There are some issues that need to be addressed in the bylaws because of how these programs have evolved and representation on committees
- SO:
  - Think about things we can do this semester
  - Wants LAC to look at Strategic Plan.
    - Think pro-actively in preparation for the arrival of the new Dean.
- 4:03 pm: PB (secretary) had to leave before meeting was over
  - A few items are therefore missing.

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## Reminders

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