



## Liberal Arts Council

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021****3:00 – 4:00 pm****Via Zoom**

In Attendance: Steve Oberhelman, Patrick Bolger (took minutes until 4pm), Catharina Laporte (took minutes from 4-4:10pm), Annette Garcia, Margaret Ezell, Christopher Hemmig, Daniel Humphrey, Roger Reese, Emily Johansen, Manuelita Ureta, Hoi-Eun Kim, Tasha Dubriwny, Deborah Carlson, Patricia Thornton, Jesse O'Rear Steve Miller, Robert Harmell, Theresa Morris, Kenny Easwaran

**Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting****November 13, 2021****Discussion**

Topic: "Next steps"

- SO starts at 3:04 pm, a rundown
- The changes to the Colleges are a go
  - General
    - Some mergings
    - In other cases, "Colleges" become "Schools"
    - CL asked questions about difference between colleges and schools
    - SO reviewed the PKB's view on this
  - CLA
    - No one will lose jobs in CLA, but academic units may be lost
    - Timeline: 1 Sep 2022
  - CLAS
    - New Dean of CLAS will be interim (1.5-2 years) and internal
    - National search for CLAS Dean
    - This will be a very large entity with 20+ program; a very experienced Dean will be necessary
    - PKB assured that CLAS will be a **\*\*very\*\*** important college, and she is going to sink money into it
    - Her new budget model (RCM) will reward CLAS
      - Metric-based rewards in RCM
      - She does not see \$ being a problem for CLAS
      - RCM (responsibility centered management)
        - Allocation of funding is based on performance metrics
      - PKB proposes hybrid
        - Revolutionary part is that Deans will very likely apply metrics to individual departments
        - Some departments will be re-evaluated
        - Questions about low-performing departments:
          - Think about future and take control of it instead of having it handed to you
    - She is willing to sunset institutes and centers that are unproductive. The new VPR will be tasked to review them.
    - PKB really likes "meta-majors"
      - Students don't declare major until end of 1st year
      - "True" meta-majors have about 6-7 foci. We expect this here.
      - Students take courses that are tied into one of the foci, then narrow their focus into a specific major
      - SO thinks that this may be difficult for many FTICs who come in as core-complete)
    - Space issues

- Coke Building is going to Architecture (no longer part of CLA)
- It's sort of a secret where CLAS will ultimately be
- There may be lots of moving this summer
- Admin seems to be unaware that many Faculty are gone during the summer since they're on 9-month contracts
- PKB will try to keep units together
- SO sees this as a mind-boggling problem
- TM asked about future of interdisciplinary programs
  - SO said that working groups will be working on this
  - They are about to finalize who is on these committees
- Discussion about who might be the new interim Dean of CLAS
  - Call for nominations will go out later in the semester.
- International Studies
  - The program will change to diplomacy and relations program in the Bush School
- COVID
  - SO has been receiving a number of requests for faculty going to online teaching because they have been exposed
  - The COVID protocols lack any sort of explanation for those who are "exposed."
  - They are going to re-write this since they're unclear
  - Voila! It actually has been updated, but it still seems a little unclear
- CL: New COVID-reporting requirement in email that arrived during meeting
  - CL read it out loud
  - Everyone is requested to fill it out
- KH How the rising number of senior faculty taking voluntary phased retirement will affect the college's ability to offer upper-level courses?
  - SO: There is a process for this to department heads
    - Phase 1: What teaching needs do you currently have?
      - Adjustments are made
    - Phase 2: New lines?
      - Very little money for this
      - Getting money for this is very difficult and depends on a lot of other things
      - TM returned to this issue with interdisciplinary programs
- CL Any chance we will move online? No answers, the former COVID committee hasn't met in months, apparently. Controlled by the provost's office now.
- DC Any update on MGT working groups (trying to protect endowments)? — no updates, chair should be in contact. Potentially underestimated interest in serving on groups.
- Meeting concluded at 4:09