



Liberal Arts Council

Wednesday, February 16, 2022**3:00 – 4:00 pm****Via Zoom**

In Attendance: D. Humphrey, A. Garcia, J. Mercieca, C. Laporte, A. Imhoff, P. Bolger, T. Morris, C. Hemmig, M. Ureta, S. Oberhelman, R. Harmel, S. Miller, D. Carlson, T. Dubriwny, H-E Kim, M. Ezell, K. Easwaran, P. Thornton, R. Reese

Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting**March 9, 2022**

Discussion

- SO update on transition
 - No departmental changes; most changes at college level; all will remain employed; more hiring, in fact, may be in the works
 - SO has particular interest in the working group for the Formation of Arts & Sciences
 - Went over membership of this group, which he is happy with
 - SO is in the group for the Bush School
 - Each WG has different deadlines
 - Depends on complexity of task
 - Two deadlines
 - Organizational charts for every working group that needs one (March-ish)
 - So we will soon know what the new structures will look like
 - New budgets (July 1st)
 - Late spring through summer, budgets will be migrated to new places
 - New Dean should be named in late Spring-ish
 - Go button pressed on Sep 1st.
 - SO had been concerned about what will happen to the libraries and the faculty and staff there
 - ME (on WG) summarized problem
 - Have met twice, but don't know about their charge b/c of complications and inconsistent messages having to do with new homes for library tenure-track faculty (many complicated square-pegs-into-round-holes problems; also verbal vs. written discrepancies in messaging.)
 - SO clarified that all WG meetings are not to be confidential
 - DH had question re: film studies and how different faculty may or may not be able to cross colleges
 - SO mentioned that the Pres & Provost emphasize cross-college collaboration; SO doesn't see a problem with cross-listed courses
- CL commented on IT consolidation WG
 - There is no real charge; the WG leadership doesn't seem to have a clue what faculty need from IT; everything is focused on what technology is put into the classrooms; conversations don't seem to be meaningful because of too much specialization on the WG. No big-picture perspective. SO will bring this up with groups higher up.
- The plan to centralize IT service on campus – PT
 - PT was wondering about job security for IT in the Mays school and whether Arts & Sciences will be able to update IT in the college (it's a bit behind according to PT)
 - SO said that the centralization of IT will mean a lot of cutting out of middle-people in the communication between faculty and IT needs.
- Update on moving faculty office out of ACAD – Patricia Thornton

- UPDATE from SO: The College of Arts & Sciences may not need *all* of the Academic Building
- They did a study and the College won't need anything on the 3rd or 4th floors
 - It appears (not known for sure) that they'll need the 1st floor and a chunk of the 2nd floor
- TM had a question about APT faculty
 - SO said that APT shouldn't be affected; the U keeps growing; College of Arts & Sciences is going to teach about 90% of the core curriculum; APT faculty are going to be very much needed.
 - TM noted that that needs to be conveyed better to the faculty; there's a lot of anxiety;
 - SO: The only changes that faculty will see is reporting to different people; the only Department being highly affected seems to be International Studies; President Banks believes that language instruction belongs in Arts & Sciences, and not in the Bush School.
- CL: Does the C. of Arts and Sciences run the risk of becoming or being perceived as a service department?
 - SO: Shouldn't be a problem especially because of the research \$\$ brought in by the sciences; Pres. Banks thinks that the C. of Arts & Sciences will be an equal partner with Engineering; everyone here is proceeding as if the C. of Arts & Sciences will continue to be a strong research arm of the university; SO hopes/believes that the permanent dean for Arts & Sciences will be an external hire; but Pres. Banks really believes in internal hires for heads and most deans.
- SO on draft changes to post tenure-track review
 - SO will distribute the link for faculty to enter their comments.