



Liberal Arts Council

Wednesday, March 9, 2022**3:00 – 4:00 pm****Via Zoom**

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

Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting**April 13, 2022**

Discussion

- Is there an update on interdisciplinary programs and the new org reforms? – Pat Thornton
- Update on Library Working Group – Margaret Ezell

- SO started with a review of the working groups
 - CAS
 - Not a lot of progress (“forward, backwards, forward, backwards”)
 - Looking at several different structures for CAS
 - Trending towards a division-less structure (direct reporting of dept. heads to dean or executive assoc. dean)
 - SO thinks that’s a lot of heads reporting to one person
 - Another possibility is that there will be several Associate Deans to distribute the reporting load
 - Bush school
 - Working group is working pretty well and will finish soon
 - Performing Arts
 - Dept. of Performance Studies may be moving into School of Visual and Performing Arts
 - Location is still unclear
 - Libraries
 - ME reported that they’re working on several possible paths in terms of who goes where
 - ME is working on an alternative to the main plan
 - MGT did not write the recommendation for moving people around that’s in the path-forward plan
 - TAMU Leadership wrote it
 - MGT was surprised on a re-visit on the new recommendations
 - ME is not sure why library faculty need to be scattered
 - All she knows is that it’s in the plan, and it’s up to the working group to figure it out
 - Good news
 - Books aren’t going fully digital
 - No one is going to lose their job
 - But where people are going and how are still unclear
 - PT concerned about interdisciplinary programs
 - SO said that the working group on interdisciplinary programs is looking at these things, but he doesn’t have much insight into it

- M Escobar-Lemmon is on that committee, and has reported that progress has been kind of slow
 - SO has been asked to recommend which University Studies concentrations should be retained vs. those that should be phased out
- Journalism
 - TD reports on how the journalism degree / department working group is going
 - They're excited about their ideas
 - Uncertain about implementation, etc.: will there be only a degree in journalism that will be housed in an existing department, or will a new department of journalism be built?
- IT consolidation (CL)
 - CL reports that there are multiple committees and subcommittees in that working group
 - CL is the only faculty voice on the committee.
 - Committee makeup seems strange to her
 - Inappropriate committee make-up is a problem across many working groups
- Endowments (SO)
 - Problem: most CLA endowments have CLA in their written agreements' description
 - Since there won't be a CLA in the fall, how will be Liberal Arts endowments and scholarships be handled?
 - SO reports that they're going through every endowment and trying to contact the donor or to recover the intent of the original donor
 - They want to centralize endowments as much as possible
- Interim Dean for CAS
 - SO has heard that the call will go out after Spring Break
 - And then be filled shortly thereafter
 - Permanent replacement may be external or internal search
 - Pres. Banks prefers internal
 - SO doesn't think that's really realistic since no one at this university has any experience being the Dean of such a heterogeneous college
 - There is a good working relationship among the deans being consolidated into CAS and they will work with the new interim dean
- Tenure-cases change
 - Previously, new VP of Faculty Affairs:
 - Any department affected by a move must have all tenure cases uploaded into Interfolio by end of August
 - That would have been very, very fast, forcing people to work over the summer
 - This was followed by a pushback from the Deans and so there is now a new deadline of October 1st.
 - Only International Studies is different here
 - They're being split, so their tenure cases have to be expedited in order to get them over to the Bush School
 - The same would have been true for Political Science, but they don't have any tenure cases coming up
- PT asked what the new name of International Studies will be for those "left behind"
 - SO says that that hasn't yet been determined
 - SM expressed concern about other programs involved in languages and cultural studies and whether they will be merged. SM has no information on that
 - Concern about changes in departmental heads going into Fall, PBSI and HS specifically

- SO noted that the interim head for PBSI should be named soon (next couple of weeks)
- Because the departure of the head of HS will take place later on (end of July), this is on the back burner for now. PBSI is on the front burner.
- DH asked about the cancelled visit for the prospective ACES fellow in HS
 - SO: Had to do with complaints about the process that were used to select the candidate
 - It was a procedural issue
 - SO said that it wasn't clear that the candidate would have been hired anyway, since only two departments would be chosen (three were given permission to invite candidates to the campus)
 - SO noted that the timing was unfortunate in that the candidate learned of his disqualification during his campus visit
- SO closed the meeting
 - Promised the group that he would distribute a new org. chart for CAS as soon as one is available
 - But things are up in the air for now