

2018-9 College of Arts and Letters Faculty Council
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2018

I. Call to Order: 4:02 p.m. SU3018

II. Roll Call

Present: Miner, Lingan, Lundquist, Emonds, Black, Coventry, Kistner, Smith, Coulter-Harris, Benton, Cox, Dombrowski, Wu, Day, Egan, Reising (for Mattison), Nemeth, Alam, Brakel, Forte, Taylor, Christman, Mezo, Baltus, Sakowski, Barnes, Thompson-Casado, Rouillard

Absent: Ferris, Sapci, Beatty-Medina, Padilla, Allred, Caceres, Foss, Piotrowski (exc.)

Ex-officio: Gilbert, Monsos, Hintz, Case

III. Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Minutes from the 10/2 meeting and the agenda for 10/16 were approved

IV. Committee Reports

Executive committee report (J. Taylor)

Committee met on Oct 16 to discuss draft of constitution, curriculum, elections, and elaborations.

Faculty Senate report (T. Brakel)

Senate conducted first reading of the Constitution. No issues raised. The second reading takes place at the Oct 23 meeting.

Graduate council report (S. Lundquist)

Graduate Council met on Oct. 16 with the Dean of Graduate Studies to review de-escalation training. All faculty are encouraged to attend this training. A representative from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs introduced a new program for IRB approval designed to offer more help and support for submissions. All new IRB protocol applications will go through the new IRB Manager starting on Monday, October 29.

The Graduate Student Association conference will take place in the Spring; the GSA proposed and discussed a Graduate Women's Student Association.

William Ayres, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, discussed ranking reports from *U.S. News & World Report*. The University pays \$5,000 to get data from this source covering a number of UT programs (although not Master's programs). Ayres said a target for 2020 was to increase the University's ranking with this publication, as UT's program reputation is important. However, program quality is still the number 1 goal, he said.

Council is attempting to elect a new vice chair, but no vote was taken at the Oct 16 meeting.

V. Dean's report (C. Gilbert)

Doermann Theater was full for the Oct 3 Shapiro Distinguished Lecture featuring Zani Beddoes, editor-in-chief of *The Economist*. The Dean said support for this lecture elevates the status of the A&L College in the minds of students.

The UT Day of Giving continues until noon on Oct 17. Dean Gilbert announced that \$16, 541 has been raised thus far from 69 donors, “doubling what we did last year.” Contributions support scholarships, research and resources for development within the College.

Alumni stories appearing on the A&L website highlight the achievements of graduates from several College programs. “It is an impressive list,” the Dean said, mentioning that many directors and entrepreneurs are included on the list. “There is no brain drain in this region,” she said.

Retention continues to be the highest priority, as the Dean again thanked departments for the welcome events they sponsored for new UT students. She asked those departments who have not planned a welcome event to consider doing so.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium, a showcase for UT undergrad scholars, will take place from Nov 29 to Dec 7. The deadline to submit projects is Nov. 12.

VI. Old Business

Constitution update (J. Taylor)

This is the last week to present amendments to the Constitution draft; a vote on the final draft will be taken at the Oct 30 meeting. The following amendments were APPROVED:

- Editing changes for consistency in *Article VII, Section 4*.
- A change in wording for *Article VII, Section 6* from “faculty and lecturer representatives” to “voting members of College council.” The change reflects similar wording in the rest of the document.
- An amendment to strike *Article VII Section 4(B)(iv)* which provides for an empty seat from division elections for Lecturers to be filled by “the candidate with the next highest vote total” in the at-large Lecturer election for a two-year term. E. Lingan argued that at-large candidates should not fill in empty division seats in order to protect those seats. S. Lundquist added that this is “in line with” practice for T/TT faculty where at-large candidates do not fill in empty division seats. (J. Taylor and E. Lingan)

D. Coulter-Harris said that this change would defeat the purpose of the amendment passed at the Oct 2 meeting [Article VII section 3 (F)] which added additional Lecturers to Council in an effort to increase their overall representation proportionate to their numbers in departments, noting that the Humanities has 50 Lecturers compared to 2 in Social Sciences. “This is not fair or democratic,” she said. “That’s what at-large is for. The number of Lecturer seats should be protected.”

S. Lundquist suggested that Council might consider the option (provided to the T/TT faculty) that allows for an extra representative for every 10 over 20 faculty members in large departments. J. Taylor said that would mean re-opening the discussion of the last meeting, and she did not want

to do that. Taylor also said that new bylaws will be created once the Constitution is approved and the issue of vacancies can be addressed there.

- A change in wording of *Article I, Section 3* from “a faculty body of the whole or an elected representational body” to “a Council consisting of an elected representational body.” L. Rouillard said the language should reflect one body, not “one or.” S. Lundquist further suggested “a College Council.”
- A proposal to eliminate the § (section symbol) in favor of just using the Article with a Roman numeral: Ex: § 7.3(A) becomes Article VII (3)(A). [K. Egan]

J. Taylor asked Council’s permission to make non-substantive grammar, spelling, and capitalization changes to the Constitution draft prior to the Oct 30 meeting. Council approved the request.

CCAP Elections Committee update (A. Day).

The election of two representative from the Humanities division and one from Social Science for CCAP has so far been unsuccessful due to lack of willing candidates. J. Taylor said it is “shocking” that representatives are not willing to serve on “one of the most important committees for Faculty.” She implored willing candidates to contact A. Day.

Curriculum Committee update (T. Brakel)

Two new courses in Disabilities Studies previously approved by the Curriculum Committee were presented to Council: Disability & Sexuality (4000-level) and Honors Thesis & Capstone (DST 4960). R. Reising said that the course description for the former appeared to be “unrelated” to its title and could be misleading to students. After further review of the course description, the course was approved with one nay vote.

Discussion also centered on the lack of a syllabus for the Honors thesis course, conducted by independent contract. S. Lundquist said that English has an “umbrella syllabus” for Honors research courses and believes that the University requires a syllabus for every course. After further discussion, the proposal passed with 2 abstentions.

J. Taylor asked the Curriculum Committee to reconsider what College policy should be on the issue of syllabi or course expectations for independent contracts. The Dean also called for consistency across the College on this matter.

Tenure and promotion elaborations update (E. Lingan)

A draft of the tenure and promotions elaborations document at the College level will be emailed to council members who may send comments to E. Lingan. Timeline: Oct 30 for open discussion; Nov 13 for proposed changes; Nov 27, vote.

VII. New Business No new business

VIII. Announcements

- The “Wonder Woman Challenge” from Women & Gender Studies is underway for Halloween (S. Barnes).
- The Humanities Institute will sponsor a symposium on World War I on Friday, Nov. 9, the 100th anniversary of the ending on WW I (F. Emonds).
- The Department of Theater and Film will present an adaptation of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, written and directed by M. Foss, on Nov 2-11 (E. Ligan).
- Women and Gender Studies will present a Student Showcase on Tuesday, Oct 23.

IX. Adjournment: 5:20 p.m. Next Council meeting is Oct 30, SU 3018

Minutes submitted by: S. Smith (subbing for M. Piotrowski, Council secretary)