

## College of Arts & Letters Spring Faculty Meeting

May 8, 2017

**Present:** Denise Acevedo, Safoi Babana-Hampton, April Baker-Bell, Pia Banzhaf, Becky Brewer, Adam Brown, Anna Buckner, Nancy Bunge, Tamara Butler, Cara Cilano, Ryan Claytor, Laura Cloud, Mark Colson, Chris Corneal, Dustin De Felice, Carmela De Lorenzo, Steve Deng, Valentina Denzell, Amy DeRogatis, d'Ann Desimone, Danielle Devoss, Kirk Domer, Benjamin Duke, Laura Essig, Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai, Yomaira Figueroa, Ann Folino White, Jon Frey, Chris Frilingos, Sonja Fritzsche, Joseba Gabilondo, Xia Gao, Peter Glendinning, Senta Goertler, Bump Halbritter, Matthew Handelman, Bill Hart-Davidson, Salah Hassan, Emily Heidrich, Walter Hopkins, Nicola Imbraccio, Lamar Johnson, Bethany Judge, Zach Kaiser, Karen Kangas-Preston, Jon Keune, Kirk Kidwell, Ryan Kilycone, Paul Kotula, Angelika Kraemer, Amy Lampe, James Lawton, Jamie Lindeman, Julie Lindquist, Sandra Logan, Chris Long, Russell Lucas, Marsha Macdowell, Kristen Mapes, Robert McCann, Katie McEwen, Matt McKeon, Deric McNish, Dan Meier, Ayman Mohamed, Ellen Moll, Quinn Moreno, Josh Morey, Tina Newshouser, Deo Ngonyani, Doug Noverr, Dionne O'Dell, Marshall Olds, Dawn Opel, Tacuma Peters, Liza Potts, Malea Powell, David Prestel, Stephen Rachman, Rob Roznowski, Kelly Salchow-MacArthur, Rebecca Schuilling, Johanna Schuster-Craig, Sandhya Shanker, Jyotsua Singe, Kate Sonka, David Stowe, Camelia Suleiman, Jacquelynn Sullivan, Rebecca Tegtmeier, Britta Urness, Arthur Verslius, Anne Violin-Wigent, Suzanne Wagner, Ned Watts, Angie Wendelberger, Dave Wendelberger, Theresa Winge, Lynn Wolff, Aurora Wolfgang, Lily Woodruff, Jeffrey Wray

### Initial Business

- Jon Frey convened the meeting at 3:07pm.
- The meeting agenda was approved unanimously.
- Minutes from the May 9, 2016 CAL Faculty Meeting were approved, pending a minor correction to replace “??” with “Stephen Deng”.
- Minutes from the December 9, 2016 CAL Faculty Meeting were approved unanimously.

### Bylaws revision concerning date of elections to CAL RPT committee

Frey discussed reasons to change the committee bylaws from stipulating that meetings occur “at the beginning of the spring semester” to “no later than November 15”, so that the committee may be chosen and convene more efficiently. CAL faculty will vote on the revision by email.

### Reports from CCC, CGC, CIPC

Stephen Deng from CCC: The CCC met eight times in the past year, reviewing 81 regular curricular requests. Full details can be found in the committee’s minutes posted online. CCC discussed ways of enhancing diversity in the curriculum and possible impacts on course enrollments caused by the College of Social Sciences’ decision to stop requiring its BA students to take a number of CAL courses.

Bill Hart-Davidson from CGC: CGC approved a new graduate Certificate in Global Studies. The graduate directors’ report showed positive “bottom line” statistics on CAL graduate student completion and placement rates. Further information is available in the CGC minutes, posted online.

Amy DeRogatis from College Inclusive Practices Committee: CIPC met twice in the past academic year, with discussions focusing on how to reward faculty for promoting inclusive climates. The Engaged Pedagogy Fund was created to encourage faculty to develop more inclusive pedagogies, a call for proposals went out to CAL faculty in the spring, and a CIPC subcommittee has selected awardees.

### Department Chair Lightning Talks

Linguistics and Languages (Sonja Fritzsche): Primary focus has been on the School of Languages Task Force and planning of the new School structure. An outside search for a Director will run next academic year.

Romance & Classical Studies (Doug Noverr): RCS Department is also focused on how its program units will be integrated into the School of Languages, as the new School's directions, needs, and priorities become apparent.

Art, Art History, and Design (Chris Corneal): AAHD brought in its first two artists-in-residence for critical race studies: Alejandro Acierto and Karen Hampton. The department has seen substantial growth in new majors. AAHD is working with the Excel Network to raise funds to enable students to do internships further afield than East Lansing.

English (Cara Cilano): English has looked to the Critical Diversity in a Digital Age Initiative to develop greater focus on diversity within literary theory and popular culture studies. The department seeks to develop stronger ties with creative writing programs in other departments. Bylaws revision has focused especially on issues of equity and on taking account of digital humanities projects.

Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures (Malea Powell): WRAC's strategic initiatives include culturally engaged digital rhetorics and digital humanities, developing globally engaged writing instruction, and creating a culture of care, equity, understanding, and collaboration across the department. WRAC has also undertaken a major revision of its bylaws.

Religious Studies (Arthur Versluis): Religious Studies has made a big push on recruitment, especially connected to its new Nonprofit Leadership Concentration. This has been successful, as the total number of majors has doubled (from 14 to 28) in the past two years, and majors and minors together now 100 students.

Theater (Kirk Domer): The department is undertaking three main initiatives: 1) branding and recruitment, by networking with high school classes, teachers, and clubs; 2) student empowerment, by enabling experiential learning with guest actors and directors; 3) strategic partnerships with other departments and programs.

Philosophy – Matt McKeon: The department is building up its focus brand activity of “engaged philosophy,” including through hiring five new faculty in the past year. A guiding principle has been that the curriculum can't be diversified without diversifying the faculty.

### **Discussion with the Dean**

1. Major changes in Dean's Office include David Prestel and Sheila Contreras returning to the faculty, and the responsibilities of Prestel's former position being divided up among other Associate and Assistant Deans, thereby decreasing the administrative positions by one.
2. (Sonja Fritsche) Considerations continue on CAL joint appointment best practices, especially looking at MOUs between Lyman Briggs College and CAL on majority/minority agreements, and reviewing mentoring processes.
3. (Sonja Fritsche) A task force “Social Justice in the Curriculum” has been formed, to consider how to help students reckon with the impacts that ongoing cultural, social, political, and economic change have on social justice and the cultural environment.
4. Citizen Scholars Program update: 42% of CS aspirants completed first-year goals, and there is increased enrollment in the program from the Honors College.
5. MSU Center for Interdisciplinarity update: the recent search for a program director yielded a candidate who was ultimately hired within the Philosophy department. Dean Long is reenvisioning the directorship of the Center, such that leadership may be developed from within CAL.

6. Critical Diversity in a Digital Age: WRAC has hired Kristin Arola. Searches are ongoing in English and History, and for a Director of Digital Humanities. Jacqueline Rhodes is the new Director of the Consortium for Critical Diversity in a Digital Age Research (CEDAR).
7. Excel Network is developing six career communities with respective sets of alumni networks, to encourage students to envision various career pathways.
8. Looking Forward: Initiatives include an AAHD task force; a Comprehensive Art Strategy at MSU led by Andras Szanto; and CAL-led collaborations for a Digital Scholarship Lab for digital humanities across the university, a Less Commonly Taught Languages Grant among Big10 universities, the Our Table Initiative that brings together CAL, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and College of Communication Arts and Sciences. The Liberal Arts Extension idea is still inchoate but developing.
9. Goals: the target for Research Grant Writing reception in CAL is to more than double the current rate, to \$12 million by 2020. Fundraising within CAL successfully doubled the initial \$10 million goal that was set in 2011.

## Discussion

The faculty expressed gratitude to David Prestel for his many years of administrative service.

Question: How is CIPC leadership determined?

Response: CIPC (including reps from all departments) decides on a member to take charge.

Question: How are department reps chosen?

Dean's response: The Dean's Office calls for nominations from departments themselves. When the School of Languages is up and running, it will probably have multiple reps, to be proportionate.

Question: Updates on discussions with History?

Dean's response: Discussions are ongoing and not being pushed. If the History Department wants to rejoin CAL (which depends on History faculty themselves), it should be because they find CAL to be a nurturing intellectual environment.

Question: How is the Citizen Scholar Program doing in terms of target enrollments?

Dean's response: The program is designed to work flexibly with the number of applicants. That 39 students made it through the first year is good. Eventually, we could imagine an acceptance rate of 20% of aspirants.

Sandra Logan: The Program has been successful in targeting and retaining a broad range of diverse students.

Question: Can we talk about the School of Language and differing of concern about program viability?

Dean's response: The School's name will probably be School for Language Sciences and Cultural Studies. No other school in the country has coupled science of language learning with cultural studies like this. Leadership within the school will account for three different levels of programs: PhD-granting, large majors, and less commonly taught languages.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jon Keune