

Advisory Council Minutes
College of Arts & Letters
November 3, 2016

Present: Chris Long (Dean), Anna Norris (RCS), Jon Frey (AAHD), Catherine Ryu (L&L), Karen Kangas-Preston (THR), Jon Keune (REL), Julie Lindquist (WRAC), Olivia Gorczyca (undergrad)

Initial Business

Frey convened the meeting at 3:20pm. The meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

Minutes from the October meeting were not yet available in final format. Approval of these minutes were tabled until the December meeting.

Dean Long's Remarks

1. The meeting with department chairs about experiential learning was positive. The experiential learning component is conceived according to an expansive vision of what may qualify and how it may be fulfilled. One aspect that is being emphasized more is encouraging students to use this component as a means of career networking and creating future professional networks for post-graduation (e.g., publishing in the arts, nonprofit organizations, alumni connections). Existing CAL Career Services staff will likely oversee this experiential learning component.
2. Long stated his appreciation for the members of the CAC sub-committee (Jon Frey, Julie Lindquist, Anna Norris, and Jon Keune) that is conducting the search for the Associate Dean for Academic Human Resources.
3. For the fall planning process, Dean Long has received all the departments' letters, and CAL is now crafting its own letter for the Provost, to be submitted Nov. 11. The letter will take note of the strategic plan on the CAL website and show the next level of development on that plan. It will include a few new things that have come onto the radar since the last strategic plan was drafted: the digital humanities cluster hire initiative and the School of Languages.
4. The DH cluster hire initiative is being reframed as "Critical Diversity in a Digital Age," (see Long's blog post at <http://www.cal.msu.edu/about/longview/oct31>). "Critique" here highlights the need to reflect on how technology structures reality within society, both enabling and preventing forms of engagement. This approach should emphasize justice and freedom, which is in line with the university's mission and could become a distinctively MSU contribution to national conversations. Long discussed possible next stages for these hires, starting with searches for three positions at the associate/full professor status, followed by searches for junior hires.
5. Regarding the School of Languages, the advisory committee's report is published behind the MSU security wall at go.cal.msu.edu/languageschool. Dean Long accepted most of the

points made by the report, and an action committee has been formed to engage faculty who may be connected in some way to the School of Languages. The action committee includes previous task force members, with two added members who are fixed-term staff. In July, the Dean will appoint an interim director for the School, and a national search for the long-term director will commence in the fall semester.

Discussion of Dean's Remarks

The committee discussed further ways to integrate the experiential learning component, such as the entrepreneurship minor and 1st-year writing. The Dean stated that there is already much going on in the college that potentially qualifies as experiential learning. The committee and Dean discussed the task force's next steps, especially what curricular adjustments are being considered and how CAL would supervise off-campus elements of experiential learning components to ensure that they meet standards of good experiences for students.

Council Business

- The Fall Semester full faculty meeting has been rescheduled for Friday, December 9 at 8:30am. CAC discussed items to put on the agenda. CAC members have until Nov 10 to suggest items for the agenda, which will be circulated for CAC approval on Nov 17.
- Bill Hart-Davidson visited the CAC meeting to discuss RPT and nontraditional/unconventional scholarly production. He emphasized that everything starts at the department level, since it's the department review letter that gets sent up the administrative chain for approval. Departments can choose to reward or incentivize nontraditional production at the bylaws level, and CAL has good examples of this. The key issue to be demonstrated for RPT is intellectual leadership. Departmental review letters must address intellectual leadership (either its potential for tenure review, or its demonstration for promotion review) to show the reason for their final decision. This is part of broader trend in distributive bureaucracies toward evidence-based practices or "backing." CAL and MSU use this evidence to compare itself and its members across institutions, through external services like Academic Analytics.
- However, Academic Analytics (AA) uses metrics that have significant holes in what it uses in its calculations. For example, book chapters (even in peer-reviewed edited volumes) do not get counted, since they aren't indexed in the same way. Some committee members expressed surprise and concern at this peculiar reason for AA excluding book chapters. Likewise, digital scholarship and products are not measured by AA, although external awards and citations do count. Thus there is ambiguity at the institutional level itself about how to measure nontraditional scholarly production. Although CAL recognizes that AA's metrics show only a partial picture of a given scholar's intellectual leadership, it is unknown how the larger university will view "uncounted" items of scholarly production.
- Committee members discussed how individuals might demonstrate that their nontraditional work is on the path toward intellectual leadership, and how departments could be encouraged to reflect CAL's rhetoric about innovative scholarship in their own RPT metrics. Drawing on external reviewers can be valuable but unpredictable, due to the evolving standards and newness of these modes of production. The new critical digital humanities initiatives hires could highlight to departments the need for evaluating nontraditional production. Another way

that departments could help is by incentivizing the *submission* of grant proposals as well as receiving them.

- CAC elected Bump Halbritter to replace Dobbins (THR) as the CAL representative on UCC for Spring semester.
- CAC voted for Teresa Dunn, Deogratias Ngonyani, Stuart Blythe, and Stephen Arch as their four nominees for the CAL RPT committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jon Keune