

Advisory Council Minutes

College of Arts & Letters

February 4, 2016

Present: Chris Long (Dean), Catherine Ryu (L&L), Rocio Quispe-Agnoli (RCS), Kristie Dotson (PHIL), Holly Cherney (Undergrad Rep), Justus Nieland (ENGL), Jon Frey (AAHD), Ann Mongoven (RS), Ann Folino White (THR), Stuart Blythe (WRAC).

Initial Business

- White convened the meeting at 3:20 pm
- Quispe-Agnoli moved approval of the agenda. Ryu seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Quispe-Agnoli moved approval of the January minutes. Quispe-Agnoli noted several minor amendments. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

Dean Long's Remarks

- Malea Powell will be the new chair of WRAC.
- Hiring in the College is going well. Long sees a couple of opportunities to hire candidates from underrepresented groups, which, he reiterated, remains a priority.
- The Provost has raised this issue of offering more classes on Friday. Long has started a conversation with CAL department chairs about what to do to expand scheduling. He said student success and time to degree should drive the scheduling process.
- Long says the revenue model for online courses will shift slightly. Originally, instructional costs for online courses were covered entirely by departments. Now the College will bear 25% of instructional costs, and departments will bear 75%. Revenue will continue to be split, with 75% going to the department and 25% going to the college.
- Long proposes bringing Julia Kostova (Oxford UP) & Patrick Alexander (Penn State UP) to campus to talk about scholarly publishing. He would like such a visit to focus on scholarly publishing for junior faculty from traditionally underrepresented groups.
- Long says the College needs to foster a culture of expectation regarding funded research. Acknowledging that resources will differ by discipline, Long said a culture of sponsored research could be developed in the College. Long said “evidence of fund seeking” would be more important than “getting” funds. Nieland and Quispe-Agnoli suggested that any expectation for grant seeking needs to be codified in promotion and tenure documents.
- Long plans to have a conversation with department chairs regarding Academic Analytics, which is a private company that emerged out of NRC rankings a few years ago. Academic Analytics is driven by an attempt to gather data on what faculty have been producing in a variety of disciplines. CAL has a chance to work with Academic Analytics to ensure that they're capturing data accurately, and that they're gathering data worth capturing. Long said he'd rather see any work with Academic Analytics as aspirational—as a part of goal-setting—rather than exclusively as evaluative—as a metric used at the moment of promotion and tenure.

Council Business

- White asked how the Council would like to proceed regarding the idea of bringing Kostova and Alexander to campus, and what kinds of ancillary programming to create around that. Nieland offered to draft a proposal for the Council to review and discuss at the next Council meeting.
- The Council reviewed Blythe's handout listing proposed amendments to the CAL Bylaws. The amendments are designed to grant voting rights to academic specialists who have been continued. A number of revisions were discussed, including clarifying the types of academic specialists and who among those types ought to be granted voting rights. The Council agreed that Blythe would revise the proposed amendments handout based on discussion during the meeting.

Dotson moved to adjourn. Mongoven seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Stuart Blythe

Reviewed by Ann Folino White & Chris Long