

Advisory Council Minutes

College of Arts & Letters

February 2, 2017

Present: Chris Long (Dean), Molefi Branson (undergrad), Kristie Dotson (Phil), Jon Frey (AAHD), Olivia Gorczyca (undergrad), Salah Hassan (Eng), Karen Kangas-Preston (Thr), Jon Keune (Rel), Julie Lindquist (WRAC), Suzanne Wagner (L&L)

Initial Business

- Frey convened the meeting at 3:18 p.m.
- Dotson moved to approve the agenda. Lindquist seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Kangas-Preston moved to approve the December minutes. Lindquist seconded. December minutes were approved unanimously. CAC did not meet in January 2017.

Dean Long's Remarks

Dean Long outlined ways in which the college's current program initiatives—Critical Diversity in a Digital Age, School of Languages, Citizen Scholars Program, and Excel Network—align with its strategic priorities, as listed at <http://www.cal.msu.edu/about/priorities>

Hiring of three new Critical Diversity faculty at the tenured level is in process. New junior Critical Diversity positions are anticipated in the near future, but their number is uncertain, due to budget cuts by the university.

Dean Long discussed his letter to CAL staff about finding a perspective on election and recent events.

Discussion of Dean's Remarks

The Excel Network program initiative could connect well with the new Center for Interdisciplinarity. Possibilities are being considered. A task force report on establishing the Excel Network will be prepared by the end of the spring semester.

Discussion continued about the role of the CAC within the College and ways to make the most of CAC members' presence and time during meetings.

Dean Long aims visit all departments during their department meeting to invite more conversation and feedback.

Council Business

CAC discussed the nomination procedure within CAL for university and national faculty awards, especially since external metrics emphasize such nominations for and receiving awards. Some stated that the current workflow is circuitous and depends on input from overburdened chairs. A

website could be designed to streamline the nominating process and collation of preliminary support materials. CAC would still vet applications and request full applications from departments for finalists. Several members asked whether the university's annual list of awards remained mostly the same year after year, so that it could be earlier, enabling departments to be more prepared.

CAC members discussed progress on departments revising their bylaws that make upper-level RPT decisions easier to make. This conversation will be put on the March CAC agenda, to be continued.

CAC discussed plans by the School of Social Sciences to create minors in gender and sexuality, and in race and ethnic studies—minors that already exist in CAL. Committee members suggested that this issue be considered at the full faculty meeting and someone from CAL attend the University Committee on Curriculum to speak up for CAL's minors.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jon Keune