

Advisory Council Minutes

College of Arts & Letters

March 3, 2016

Present: Chris Long (Dean), Gary Hoppenstand (University Council), Catherine Ryu (L&L), Rocio Quispe-Agnoli (RCS), Holly Cherney (Undergrad Rep), Julio Cesar Paredes (Graduate Rep), Jon Frey (AAHD), Chris Frilingos (RS), Ann Folino White (THR), Stuart Blythe (WRAC).

Initial Business

- White convened the meeting at 3:15 pm
- Quispe-Agnoli moved approval of the agenda. Ryu seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Quispe-Agnoli moved approval of the February minutes. Ryu seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Dean Long's Remarks

- Dean Long reports that he's moving through his first experience with the tenure-promotion process at MSU. He'd like eventually, to have the College look more holistically across departments with respect to promotion & tenure as well as grievance policies. He'd like to make sure that department bylaws fit best practices. He emphasized that bylaws do not have to be exactly the same, but he'd like engage departments in ways that ensure that each department is consistent with best practices.
- Long reports that each department is in the process of making spring budget requests. Each department has been asked to update requests from the fall, and to connect any request to College and University initiatives. He'd like to present to the Provost a budget request that is "a little more holistic," i.e., that presents specific budget requests as part of an overall College strategy.
- Long reports that he has met with the chair of the Citizen Scholars program. The committee for that program has articulated the kinds of skills and experiences students should have by the time they graduate. Long hopes that details will become public soon, perhaps even in time for fall recruiting. Long noted that Ann Folino White and the entire committee have done terrific work so far.

Council Business

- The Council discussed the possibility of modifying the College bylaws to grant voting rights to academic specialists. Department representatives reported on input gathered from their respective departments. Because some departments expressed concern about a link between the granting of Academic Specialist voting rights and the weakening of tenure, Folino White reported that Long has promised to look into hiring patterns over the past decade or so. Have the proportions of tenure track faculty, fixed-term faculty, and academic specialists changed over time?
- Quispe-Agnoli moved that a discussion of voting rights for academic specialists be included in the agenda for the next CAL meeting in May. Frey seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- The Council then worked on the version of the proposed changes to present at the May meeting. A significant issue was a perceived unfairness in fixed-term faculty getting to vote after 3 years while academic specialists would have to wait 6 years (under the current wording of the bylaw). Another question arose regarding voting rights for non-tenure-track faculty when it comes to the voting for faculty to serve on the College RPT committee.

- Blythe moved that a revised version of the proposed changes for voting rights for academic specialists be put forth at the CAL meeting in May. The accepted revisions grant voting rights after three consecutive years for fixed-term faculty and continuing academic specialists alike. Frey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Frey moved to adjourn. Ryu seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Stuart Blythe

Reviewed by Ann Folino White & Chris Long

Approved by CAC 4/7/2016