

Minutes—Liberal Arts Council  
February 12, 2020—2:00 p.m.

**Presiding:** Dean Mary Brennan

**Present:** Council members: Audwin Anderson, Manda Anderson, Susan Day (recording), Beth Erhart (late), Ken Grasso, Craig Hanks, Lucy Harney, Paul Hart, Bill Kelemen, Yongmei Lu, John Mckiernan-Gonzalez, Angela Murphy, Aimee Roundtree, Vicki Smith, Chad Smith

**Guests:** no one

**Absent:** no one

The minutes of 1.29.20 were unanimously approved by a vote of the Council on a motion by Dr. Grasso and a second by Dr. Harney.

Dean Brennan introduced the proposed College Strategic Plan. She thanked the Council for their efforts. She included student access to low or no-cost textbooks and the Medical Humanities minor. Dr. Hanks suggested adding the Sustainability Studies minor and the BA in Religious Studies under “3. Enhance undergraduate education.” The inclusion of minors in “3. Enhance undergraduate education” was suggested Dr. Harney (Chinese minor) and Dr. Lu (Environmental Studies minor). She asked Council members to tell her if they wanted changes and she will add their suggestions (i.e., new Hispanic minor faculty member completed). In “6. Facilities. . .” Psychology noted they were promised some classroom space in Nueces, and similar promises were made to Philosophy and History.

She will add “and retain” to “Attract high achieving students” under IV. Planning Goals. LA 1.07 will be noted as “completed” as will 1.03 under Planning Goals. Dr. Erhart asked whether we should include “Create graduation tuition-reimbursement fellowships and scholarships” in the section priorities section. She will send out the changed report before she sends it in.

Susan Day moved the acceptance of the PIM proposals (COLA program changes, deletions, and proposals). Dr. Hanks seconded. Dr. Kelemen complimented Stella LoPachin on her efforts for the PIM, an idea that received support around the table.

Susan Day asked whether chairs would be willing to ask faculty members to respond to student emails. A discussion ensued about the consequences of such a request.

CAD update

Dean Brennan announced that the schedule for the beginning of the fall 2020 semester will have the President’s convocation on Friday.

Provost Bourgeois worried that ECF funds will be captured by FSS. He suggested departments should be using ECF funds for faculty, although apparently the narrow limits on spending continue to exist. Provost Bourgeois doesn’t want split PCRs for faculty, but chairs noted that few faculty members teach only on-line. Next year’s budgets will be like last year’s budgets according to Dr. Harney.

Summer budgets will have to be returned by March 11. Dean Brennan wants to meet with chairs individually about their justifications.

Dean Brennan asked chairs to send information about the students they had nominated for Regents Student Scholar.

Dr. Roundtree announced that she is sending chairs information electronically about the Student Expo.

Dr. Harney thanked the College for their support for the Spanish Symposium and for Dr. Ugalde's efforts.

Dr. Kelemen noted the contract with Qualtrics has been renewed for 3 more years. Manda suggested that the new parent portal (Campus ESP) will allow parents to request information about student records.

Dr. Mckiernan-Gonzalez announced that Ricardo H. Lowe, Jr., a former student of Dr. Audwin Anderson, and also a Research Associate for IUPRA and Doctoral Student in Applied Demography at UT San Antonio, will present "School Closures and Black Depopulation in Austin, Texas" on February 13 in Brazos Hall at 2 pm.

Dr. C. Smith noted that Texas State made the Chronicle.

**The meeting ended at 3:17.**