

## Liberal Arts Council Meeting

Flowers 230

2:00 p.m. 8 September 2021

**Presiding:** Dean Mary Brennan

**Present:** Manda Anderson, Natalie Ceballos, Christi Conlee, Susan Day (recording), Ken Grasso, Craig Hanks, Lucy Harney, Paul Hart, Jeff Helgeson, Yongmei Lu, Gloria Martinez, John Mckiernan-Gonzalez, Aimee Roundtree, Vicki Smith, Toni Watt

**Guests:** no one

**Absent:** no one

On-line teaching was discussed among the chairs.

The minutes of 8.11.21 were unanimously approved in a motion by Dr. Grasso and a second by Dr. Mckiernan-Gonzalez.

Compliance Reporting: Dean Brennan reminded chairs and directors that S.B. 212 requires all responsible employees (a legal term, not a moral assessment) to report to the Texas State Office of Equal Opportunity and TIX (<https://compliance.txstate.edu/oeotix/>) student statements of sexual misconduct within 2-3 business days. Students must be told that responsible persons must report, but may also tell students that they (students) do not have to respond when the Office reaches out to them. Institutions are legally required to terminate responsible employees who do not report.

At Dean Brennan's request, Dr. Watt reported about the Compassion Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Center, created June 1, 2021, which assists students who are in crisis. In the Dean of Students Office, its employees assist students who are in the turmoil with referrals to agencies on and off campus, to enable them to solve or mitigate their problems.

Budgeting: Dean Brennan noted that specific information about which funds are no longer provided by the Provost's Office has not been sent by AVP Thorne. Departments were urged to use their M&O budgets strategically and judiciously, since reserves in the Provost's office are very low. Subvention requests can be forwarded to the Dean's office and above, but it is unclear, at this time, what may be supported "above."

#### CAD Update

Enrollment: There are 6633 students in the freshman class, 5% higher than the largest-ever class, though SCH is down slightly. Transfers are up 2%. Graduate student enrollment is up slightly because of continuing students. Liberal Arts graduate enrollment is down. Dean Golato is concerned about the long-term impact of fewer new Master's students for upcoming years.

An incentive appreciation program will provide cash prizes and two free parking stickers for those with Covid vaccinations. The administration will have a robust strategy for polling faculty and staff about their perceptions of how the semester is going.

The 9/1 Open Carry law does not apply to our university campus.

Dean Brennan acknowledged the difficulty of this current situation.

Around the table:

Dr. Lu noted that Bobcat Trace is overwhelmed, and wondered about the accuracy of their messaging (i.e., "You are/are not identified as a close contact.") sent by Bobcat Trace to faculty and students. Sending the message to the entire class may alert students to the importance of mask wearing. Dean Brennan noted that more "tracers" will be hired. One chair noted that his/her positive test resulted in one unanswered call from Bobcat Trace, and no follow-up call.

Dr. Mckiernan-Gonzalez asked whether pre-Covid rules still apply to on-campus events. Dean Brennan indicated that they did.

Dr. Helgeson revealed that he is using some of his budget to enhance air filtration and flow in his building.

At the request of Stella LoPachin, Dr. Day reminded all that the deadline for faculty members to notify chairs of their intent to apply for faculty development leave is next Wednesday, 9/15. In addition, Stella asked chairs to notify her if, prior to 9/20, faculty members rescind their intention to pursue promotion.

Dr. Roundtree noted that she is increasing programming for writing and research projects and grants. She asked chairs to stay tuned.

The meeting ended at 2:56.