

Liberal Arts Council Meeting

Flowers 230

1:30 p.m. 29 September 2021

**Presiding:** Dean Mary Brennan

**Present:** Manda Anderson, Natalie Ceballos, Christina 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

The minutes of 9.8.21 were unanimously approved in a motion by Dr. Grasso and a second by Dr Lu.

Dean Brennan asked Drs. Grasso and Lu to be a subcommittee looking at the CoLA P&T policy to provide insights and suggestions to the Council about changes to go into effect next year. They agreed to do so.

Dean Brennan asked for volunteers to serve as external CRG members. Dr. Hanks and Dr. Hart volunteered for chair and faculty roles respectively. Dr. Harney will be the chair alternate. Dr. Grasso will ask Dr. Ward if he will be the faculty member alternate.

Dean Brennan noted that the CoLA month will not be held on the Quad because of the on-going construction. Instead, activities are scheduled for one afternoon each week in October, primarily in FH 230. There will be a Majors and Minors Fair on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Students should be encouraged to bring resumes and be appropriately dressed for pictures at the Career and Resume workshop on October 12<sup>th</sup>, which will include resume review and professional headshots. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, a student resource fair will include representatives from offices of the Student Attorney, Financial Aid, Student Emergency Services, and the Advising Center who will provide information. The last week will be a fall social for CoLA majors and minors.

Dean Brennan explained how Staff Performance Awards will be distributed in departments.

Dean Brennan noted that Liberal Arts faculty have complained about not being notified about the Salon Series. The College will send notifications, and chairs were also asked to remind faculty. Dean Roundtree suggested having a Salon Series tab on the CoLA site. Dr. Harney suggested that former students and retirees would also be interested, though Dr. Roundtree noted that UA tightly controls alumnae lists.

The Library announced that it will no longer bind or house theses after October 31, 2021. Dean Brennan has information about binding if student and faculty are interested.

A new Texas State mobile app will provide information about available computer labs on campus. If departments want their computer labs on the app, they should notify Dean Brennan who will notify the appropriate staff members.

Faculty Qualification/ Digital Measures will send an email requesting updates to faculty files by October 11<sup>th</sup> for second-year reappointments. Additions after October 11, 2021, will not be considered. Between October 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, chairs must enter faculty rank and reappointment year for each 2<sup>nd</sup> year faculty member. All reappointment decisions have to be made and entered by November 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairs must enter comments by November 15<sup>th</sup>. PC members will soon be notified about their access to FQ/DM for 2<sup>nd</sup> year reappointments.

A new rank of Teaching Faculty is being created to replace Lecturer and Senior Lecturer ranks. It will be discussed in the Council of Chairs.

A report to CAD indicated that Texas State is doing a good job with reference to managing textbook costs. Dean Brennan asked Chairs to ask faculty to tell their Administrative Assistants if course costs are under \$50 so as to inform students in the schedule of classes by clicking the relevant box when scheduling courses.

The Bobcat Cares program distributed more than \$40M to 21,000 students this fall.

Dean Brennan noted that ADA accommodations for teaching Spring courses on-line should be requested now.

Around the Table

Dr. Roundtree has started a new Liberal Arts research series, focusing on awards, faculty distinctions and potential awards. In spring, there will be a major event focused on improving the quality of applications and discussions. No

faculty received NEH American Rescue Awards. Humanities-centered work based on the submissions can be resubmitted to Mellon. Faculty should contact Dr. Roundtree if they are interested.

Dean Brennan announced that Dr. Roundtree is the new inaugural research fellow in ORSP.

The meeting ended at 2:46 p.m.