

Liberal Arts Council Meeting
2 p.m.–2 March 2022
Flowers 230

Presiding: Dean Mary Brennan

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

The minutes of 2.9.22 were unanimously accepted with no changes on a motion by Dr. Grasso and a second by Dr. Helgeson.

Summer Budget Information CoLA's summer budget -wonderful job on administrative budgets. All departments operating within the same perimeters, but Dean Brennan has not discussed our summer budgets or temporary money or ECF with AVP Thorne. Everyone is waiting to see about summer enrollment.

Dean Brennan provided student retention data analyzed by Presidential Fellow Elkin Tahir, who offers a “deep dive” on student success outcomes for first-year students. Dr. Helgeson mentioned that continuity over the first summer is an issue of concern. Dean Brennan asked if we should be focusing on students in their second and third years.

CAD Update CAD agendas have been short. The administration is optimistic about first-year enrollment for the fall which looks to be larger than last year's class. More than 1000 students have accepted merit awards. A “good” number of students have signed up for NSO and housing contracts. Having enough developmental courses is a concern. The CoLA received 2 of 10 Phi Kappa Phi dissertation fellowships given in the entire country (one in Anthropology and one in Geography). In addition, the College is piloting a program to allow out-of-state students enrolled in our fully-online programs to receive in-state tuition.

There was no Covid update in CAD. We hope to be able to stop wearing masks after spring break. Hays is still in the yellow category that requires mask wearing.

Dr. Jennifer Devine, Professor of Geography, is the new Associate Dean for Promotion at 25% in the spring and summer. She will be working on web sites and social media.

Students that have attended Bobcat Day and been accepted to Texas State have been invited for Academic Visit Day this Friday morning. At 11:45 a.m., they will be sent to their major departments. Manda will provide relevant information for departments.

Updates Research EXPO has students from some, but not all departments. She asked all chairs to send students, even though the 3.1.22 deadline has passed.

There was a mix-up in the Performance Management system impacting staff bonuses. If departments find their staff information/data is missing, Tammy Coyle in HR can assist. The deadline to complete the forms is April 1, 2022.

Chairs were told to block off 3.25.22 and contact the department's College Review Group member to attend a meeting in FH 230. Information about the meeting will be available after spring break. Some chairs noted that they already have obligations at that time, so the meeting may be changed to 3.23.22.

Dr. Day reminded chairs that 2022 assessment is due later in the semester. Dr. Lon Olson is willing to do individual workshops with chairs and faculty to discuss assessment issues. There will be a new program for assessment in use after the 2021-2022 cycle is complete. She asked chairs to send to her

the names of faculty who will complete assessment documents. She reminded chairs that they could collect data on the calendar year rather than on the academic year.

Around the Table

Dr. Mckiernan-Gonzalez encouraged LAC members to look at Center for the Study of the Southwest's website for the speakers they will be sponsoring.

Dr. Ed Dorn will present in Taylor-Murphy at 5 pm this Friday.

Dr. Roundtree announced a NEH Funding workshop 3.11.22 at noon. It will be recorded and there will be additional NEH workshops in April. An application by Dr. Roundtree to the American Council of Learned Societies has resulted in an award to the CoLA of \$157,000 to fund and focus on faculty who do engaged research with the community.

The meeting ended at 2:58 p.m.