

Draft Liberal Arts Council Minutes
9 February 2022 UAC 230
2:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Manda Anderson

The minutes of 26 January 2022 were unanimously accepted with no changes on a motion by Dr. Grasso and a second by Dr. Harney.

Dean Brennan announced that she had submitted LAC strategic planning survey responses to the administration.

The tenure-track policy discussed at the last meeting was unanimously accepted with no changes on a motion by Dr. Lu and a second by Dr. Grasso. The policy will be effective 9.1.22.

Consideration of the LACCC program recommendations was tabled since chairs and directors had not seen those recommendations.

Deadlines for submission for outstanding undergraduate students can be changed to a later date. The deadlines for submission for outstanding graduate students is 2.21.22. Academic Excellence award students who are dual majors will not be scrutinized for participating in both majors.

Dean Brennan announced that Kimberly Garrett has sent notices that indicate noncompliance. The noncompliance is usually a failure to award monies. If the scholarship monies cannot be awarded, a waiver should be requested from Ms. Garrett.

The Student Research Expo will be held on 4.29.22. Student nominations should be submitted by 3.1.22. Departments can nominate one student presentation and two poster students.

Advancement is creating a College Campaign that will solicit awards for colleges who must pay for the solicitation materials.

IT announced, in CAD, that a new state law requires cloud software to go through certification to be used on campus. Concern was expressed that the certification would be time consuming and restrict faculty research. Vendors should requestingrequest certification if it has not been completed. A dashboard noting software approvals is available; IT will come to the Council of Chairs meeting on 4.7.22.

Dean Brennan noted that the University's new logo is TXST NEXT. Dean Brennan noted that more faculty should be writing for The Conversation in order to market the College. Dean Brennan will send more information on The Conversation to chairs.

Sponsored Programs announced that research expenditures are positive, supporting our pursuit of R1 status.

BobCat Cares will award \$7M to students this spring. All currently-enrolled students who applied will receive something. The fall 2022 freshman class is likely to be larger than the fall 2021 class. Graduate enrollment is apparently lagging.

Announcements may be made about eliminating BobCat Trace after spring break.

Staff Council has complained that some staff in some divisions are allowed to work off-campus for longer periods. Dean Brennan relayed the information that remote work is defined as short-term work (a few days) from home due to illness or injury. Long-term work is extended work off campus, more than 30 days at a time.

Dean Brennan discussed proposed summer budgets. She asked chairs to compare last summer numbers with proposed classes for summer 2022. In addition, she noted that proposed administrative summer budgets are about \$30K more than last summer. She will discuss administrative overages with some chairs. Summer hiring policies should be reexamined.

Around the Table:

Dr. Harney asked for guidance about on-campus searches. Dean Brennan indicated that departments may choose their approach. Dr. Harney also asked about the process for faculty to request on-line teaching in the fall. Dean Brennan indicated that medical accommodation submissions can be submitted by email to Fernando Rojas, ADA Compliance Coordinator.

A number of chair and directors noted that speakers will be on campus in the near future.

The meeting ended at 3:09 p.m.