

College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Friday Aug 23rd, 2024
2-4pm, Teams

Present: Dean Spiller; Toru Shimizu; Allison Cleveland-Roberts; Tangela Serls; Jennifer Collins; Maria Corton; Jennifer Friedman; Adriana Novoa; Thomas Pluckhahn; Stephen Song; Hariharan Srikanth; Mohamed Elhamdadi; Victoria Nelson; Tammy Allen

I. Call to Order (2.01pm). The Council had voted for Jennifer Collins (Chair) and Adriana Novoa as Deputy Chair. Jennifer Collins led the meeting.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Council members welcomed Dean Spiller and expressed their optimism for the College with Dean Spiller being appointed. Council welcomed new members and each person on the call introduced themselves.

III. Dean's Remarks

Dean Spiller noted what she has been involved with in the past 35 days including meetings with Department Chairs. She offered to speak with departments in the future too when invited.

IV. Committee Liaisons and process for updates discussion

The following members volunteered to serve as Council Liaison for committees as below. Allison Cleaveland Roberts from the Dean's Office offered to continue to liaise on grievances. Jennifer Collins offered to send a blurb in the next week which they may want to send to the Chairs of these committees, or tweak it as they wish, which will express how the Council Liaison will help bring issues to Council discussion that the committee brings to them, and report back important information.

- a. Library Committee (Ed Kissi)
- b. Diversity Committee (Jennifer Friedman)
- c. Faculty Development Committee (Tammy Allen)
- d. Technology Committee (Maria Corton)
- e. Grievance (Cleveland-Roberts)

V. Standing Committees

Adriana Novoa will send an email to Council in the next week so decisions can be made regarding the members of the standing committees. Council members will need to vote very shortly so it was advised to look out for that email so Council can complete their work quickly.

VI. Food Sovereignty, Food Insecurity, and Mental Health Proposal (Chair and Friedman)

Jennifer Collins will be meeting with Dean Spiller and Toru on Monday 8/26/24 and will ask the Dean if she has any additional input on the proposal developed in the 2023-2024 year and, if not, request it be sent up to the Provost's Office.

VII. Faculty Concerns

- Council expressed concerns about legislation and impacts on General Education and how such legislation could affect many of our courses. It was expressed that CAS faculty want to see more clarity and communication coming from the Dean's office and want to feel backed up by the College.
- Jennifer Collins noted her concern Faculty Council creating a new "Big Goal" for this year when we have the two proposals from 2022-2023 (Tuition Exchange Program) and 2023-2024 (Food Sovereignty, Food Insecurity, and Mental Health) that have not yet been addressed. She

recommended that she discuss these with the Dean, as well as the three topics discussed with the Provost at the January 2024 Council Meeting to see if the Dean can provide support to move the needle on any of those topics towards action. She will also discuss other hot topics covered in the past two years that remain important issues. It was discussed how Council wishes to help the Dean with her transition and be there in an advisory capacity, working as a team, as needed.

- The PTR was discussed and the low morale college-wide was noted as a result of the College's actions last year. Jennifer Collins said she would share the letter to Dean Spiller which was sent to the Provost. Jennifer mentioned it could have been a completely different scenario if the narrative could have been shared that this is how we got to AAU as we have these really outstanding and productive faculty. Dean Spiller shared that she likewise sees it as an opportunity to highlight what CAS faculty are doing. She discussed the different steps that the California system have. Adriana pointed out the difference between the California system and what is going on with Florida, with people having their tenure taken away. She mentioned she would follow up with the Dean via email about this.

VIII. Adjourn (3.35pm)