

MINUTES
College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS) Faculty Council 2015-2016
Monday, November 16, 2015; 2211 Temple Building

Attendees

Rowena Briones, CHSFC President, Robertson School of Media and Culture
Andrew Bristow, CHSFC Secretary, Mathematics & Applied Mathematics
Julio Alvarez, CHSFC Parliamentarian, Chemistry
Jason Arnold, Political Science
Charlene Crawley, Interdisciplinary Science Program
Christine Cynn, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies
Denis Demchenko, Physics
Michael Fine, Biology
Jesse Goldstein, Sociology
Mignonne Guy, African American Studies
Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Liberal Studies for Early and Elementary Education
Sarah Seashols-Williams, Forensic Science
Fernando Tenjo, Biology
Joseph Topich, Undergraduate Academic Committee
Joseph Turner, Past CHSFC President, Chemistry
Mike Valdman, Philosophy
Marcia Winter, Psychology

Absent

Ghidewon Abay-Asmerom, CHS Technology
Susan Bondar-Deren, Sociology
Ed Boone, Statistical Science & Operations Research
Hani El-Kaderi, University Council Rep
Nick Farrell, Promotion and Tenure Committee
Robert Gains, Military Science and Leadership
David Golumbia, English
Julie Honnold, Graduate Academic Committee
Guy Hornsby, Kinesiology & Health Sciences
Bob Sims, School of World Studies
Greg Smithers, History

1. Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 P.M.

2. Committee Reports

Undergraduate Academic Committee - Some revised courses; piloted connected learning courses in the process of approval (one in engineering, two in school of the arts)

Graduate Academic Committee – no report given.

Technology Committee - no report given.

Promotion and Tenure - no report given.

University Council – Minutes from the October 1, 2015 meeting having been placed on the blackboard site. Items that involve CHS include conferring department status to Sociology and Political Science which formerly fell under the Wilder School.

Faculty Senate – Minutes from the September 29th meeting have been placed on the blackboard site. One key item of discussion was how faculty senate could work to streamline the process for getting information out to the faculty. Other topics from the meeting include a presentation from the Division of Inclusive Excellence, VCU Honor System and campus safety.

3. Old Business

Unit Bylaws Discussion

Council president led a discussion on the unit bylaws for Forensic Science, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, Psychology and Liberal Studies for Early and Elementary Education. Some minor inaccuracies were noted and recommendations to fix the inaccuracies were made. Motions were made to approve the department bylaws for Forensic Science, Psychology and Liberal Studies for Early and Elementary Education. All three motions were passed.

In discussion regarding the Mathematics and Applied Mathematics bylaws the topic of voting privileges for all or select faculty was raised. The conversation centered on the voting rights of term faculty within departments in CHS. Representatives from various departments in CHS described the voting process for their respective departments. Since voting rights varied across departments it was suggested that unless there was a college standard we should leave it up to the department. A motion was approved that Rowena send an email to the department chair from Mathematics and Applied Mathematics to revise the 7 year rule for term faculty members and say that it was part of promotion and tenure and not the department bylaws.

Term Faculty Issues

A discussion arose out of the discussion on unit bylaws on how best to address issues that related specifically for term faculty members. It was noted that the Provost had recently met with faculty senate and discussed the role of term faculty. A suggestion was made to leave some of the items regarding term faculty up to the individual departments but to have rights clearly defined by the college. The majority of members expressed concern about term faculty vulnerability. The idea of a term faculty bill of rights for the CHS was floated. Rowena suggested that she contact Allison Baski to get a feeling on what the Dean's office thinks about these issues. It was also proposed that a survey be sent out to all faculty members to identify the concerns and needs of both tenure track and non-tenure track faculty members. Another suggestion that was made was to reach out to the Diversity and Equity committee to having a listening session for both tenure track and non-tenure track faculty members.

Diversity and Equity Discussion

Rowena stated that she had emailed Anne Stratton regarding the discussion from the last meeting. She stated that she is going to reach out again to make sure that CHSFC can be a role player in this process.

QEP and Gen Ed Discussion/Letter to Gardner Campbell

Rowena reminded members that the google document is out there. The document can be found at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jtyBxxobMkWzpqgTwgrgsy2WwNZ-IJsFltw8tgaH3QE/edit>

There has not much response from the individual departments so she did not formalize an actual letter. She also stated that she wants individuals to post whatever thoughts/questions that they have.

Four Tier II courses, which are topics courses, are on the books for spring semester. These courses will count as a general education elective. Department chairs did meet with Gardner to have a question and answer session. Two additional faculty members from CHS were appointed to the task force which will be in charge of creating a general education committee.

4. President Report

Rowena reported her attendance at ACM meetings on 10.14.15 and 11.11.15 as well as a discussion she had with Anne Stratton on 11.11.15 in terms of CHSFC involvement with the diversity and inclusion initiatives at VCU. She reached out to the CHS student leadership council representatives and invited them to attend a CHSFC meeting in the spring semester of 2016.

5. New Business

CHSFC goals 2015-2016

Discussion was centered on CHSFC's cause for 2015-2016. One idea from council was a lack of mentoring programs for faculty, primarily new faculty. Rowena mentioned that in conversations with Anne Stratton, that Anne had stated that this was a cause that needed to be championed. Some members suggested that there is a need for this after the Center of Teaching Excellence was dissolved. Other members worried that this might be a duplication of current efforts that council is unaware of. Questions regarding whether or not new faculty should be paired with a mentor within the same department. Arguments both for and against inside the department vs outside of the department were made. Rowena suggested that she would have another conversation with Anne to see what her vision of CHSFC's role would be in this.

6. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2015.