

MINUTES
College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS) Faculty Council 2015-2016
Monday, December 14, 2015; 2211 Temple Building

Attendees

Rowena Briones, CHSFC President, Robertson School of Media and Culture
Andrew Bristow, CHSFC Secretary, Mathematics & Applied Mathematics
Ghidewon Abay-Asmerom, CHS Technology
Charlene Crawley, Interdisciplinary Science Program
Christine Cynn, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies
Denis Demchenko, Physics
Michael Fine, Biology
Jesse Goldstein, Sociology
David Golumbia, English
Mignonne Guy, African American Studies
Julie Honnold, Graduate Academic Committee, Promotion and Tenure
Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Liberal Studies for Early and Elementary Education
Greg Smithers, History
Fernando Tenjo, Biology
Mike Valdman, Philosophy
Marcia Winter, Psychology

Absent

Julio Alvarez, CHSFC Parliamentarian, Chemistry
Jason Arnold, Political Science
Ed Boone, Statistical Science & Operations Research
Ronald Evans, Kinesiology and Health Sciences
Nick Farrell, Chemistry
Robert Gains, Military Science and Leadership
Guy Hornsby, Kinesiology & Health Sciences
Sarah Seashols-Williams, Forensic Science
Joseph Topich, Undergraduate Academic Committee
Joseph Turner, Past CHSFC President, Chemistry

1. Order

The meeting called to order at 3:00 P.M.

2. Committee Reports

Undergraduate Academic Committee – no report given

Graduate Academic Committee – The department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences passed a post-baccalaureate certificate in health behavior coaching. This is a core component of the "New Virginia Economy Workforce Initiative" proposed by Governor McAuliffe. This will be a 21 credit program with three courses offered on-campus and the remaining courses offered online. In addition to this new

program it was also announced that the DegreeWorks program on e-services will begin to work for graduate students next summer.

Technology Committee – It was reported that funds have been approved and departments receiving funds have been notified.

Promotion and Tenure Committee – The committee has considered 13 promotion cases this semester which includes both tenure track and term faculty members within CHS.

University Council – Items related directly to CHS include the approved proposals to confer department status to both the Political Science and Sociology programs. Minutes from the November 5th meeting have been posted on blackboard.

Faculty Senate – A faculty status report was given in which Provost Hackett acknowledge the need to increase the numbers of tenured and tenure-track faculty. Also noted was the work being done to address job security for term faculty. Minutes from the November 3rd meeting have been posted on blackboard.

3. Old Business

Past President End of Year Report

Past CHSFC President Jody Turner had prepared an end of the year report. Jody was unable to attend the council meeting due to a Chemistry faculty candidate talk. Therefore, the document will be posted to blackboard after the meeting for representatives to view at their leisure.

Unit Bylaws Update

Bylaw revisions were sent out to the three different departments (FRSC, LSEE & PSYC) that were approved in the October meeting. Regarding the bylaws from the math department it was discovered that the “7 year rule” (referring to the maximum length of a non-renewable contract for term faculty after which the faculty member would need to take a minimum hiatus of one-year) was not part of the department bylaws but instead part of the promotion and tenure guidelines for the department. A motion was proposed by Council President to “reach out to Allison Baski and Kathy Bassard regarding questions about P&T procedures for term faculty in math department”. This motion was approved.

Diversity & Equity Discussion

In response to discussion during the November meeting, Rowena met with Anne Stratton on December 10th to discuss what role CHSFC can play in support of their initiatives. One item that was presented was writing a unified message of support on behalf of the faculty of CHS to the diversity and equity committee. This message would be used to show awareness and support of the efforts that are being made. Some members of council felt that they were not completely aware of all of the goals and initiatives of this committee and others working on diversity and equity initiatives. It was suggested that before writing a letter, we reach out to each of those committees to have representatives to come in and speak to council about their goals, initiatives, events and ways that we can help their cause. Members also voiced concern regarding the launch of new initiatives by administration that affect faculty without prior support of the faculty. A motion was made extend an invitation out to all groups working on diversity and equity initiatives to come to speak to CHSFC in the spring semester. This motion was approved.

4. President Report

Rowena attended the Presidential Forum that was held on November 18th. One major concern that was voiced was at the forum was the communication gap between the administration, faculty and students. She is working with the students to continue the diversity conversation that was started at the presidential forum. This effort will be in the form of a one credit course similar to those that were offered during the UCI bike race. This course will be student led and students will help to organize guest speakers for the course. The goal is to provide an additional outlet to get students involved with diversity on VCU's campus.

5. New Business

Provisions for Evening Faculty

Faculty council will continue to explore the provisions that can be made for faculty who teach in the evenings (after 5 P.M.). An issue that has been voiced in the past has been childcare availability for those that teach in the evenings. Rowena will contact the childcare center to determine the feasibility/costs of staying open for adjuncts and other faculty who teach after 5 P.M. Another concern that was voiced was regarding the low amount of pay adjuncts receive for their services to the college. CHSFC will make a first step by reaching out to see if evening childcare availability is feasible.

6. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016.