

**Faculty Council of the College of Humanities and Sciences  
of Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2017  
Hibbs 308**

**Attendees**

Christopher Burdett, CHSFC President, Political Science  
Fernando Tenjo, 2016-17 CHSFC President, Biology  
Sarah Seashols-Williams, Secretary, Forensic Science  
Indika Arachchige, CHSFC Parliamentarian, Chemistry  
Scott Street, Faculty Senate Representative  
Liz Canfield, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies  
Daniel Cranston, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics  
Mignonne Guy, African American Studies  
Joseph Reiner, Physics  
Charlene Crawley, Interdisciplinary Science  
Mike Valdman, Philosophy  
Matthew Scott, Kinesiology & Health Sciences  
Marcia Winter, Psychology  
Natasha Long, Mass Communications  
Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Technology Committee Representative, LSEE  
Greg Smithers, History

**Absent**

Jesse Goldstein, Sociology  
Ed Boone, Statistical Sciences and Operations Research  
Robert Gains, Military Science and Leadership  
Mike Southam-Gerow, Graduate Academic Committee Representative  
Michael Hall, English  
Joseph Topich, Undergraduate Academic Committee Representative  
Retired Faculty Member  
Adjunct Faculty Member  
Committee on Administration Representative

**1. Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 P.M.

**2. Deirdre Condit, new Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs for the College visited.**

Dean Fuentes would like for FC to manage the elections for the entire College. We will start the election process in February. Part of the drive for this is the lopsidedness in term:tenured

faculty ratio in faculty governance across all committees and governing groups. The concern with this trend is that Term faculty are the least empowered in terms of speaking to power, and with reduced input from tenured faculty in these groups, we lose the voice of the most experienced senior faculty. The Dean would like to see reengagement of the senior faculty and hear their voices and experience in the service obligations of the College.

The Dean would also like to understand how communication and feedback between FC representatives and their respective units is occurring and work to make that better.

The Provost is creating committees that the College will be appointing to:

**Ad-Hoc committees:**

Curriculum Transformation - innovative thinking on how to transform UG learning environments through curriculum transformation

Corequisite committee - interpret on how co-requisites are enforced and recommend standardisation of co-requisites

Course Evaluation committee - improvements of evaluation process and subsequent use of evaluation data

Dual Enrollment committee - practices, protocols and processes of dual-enrollment

**Standing Committees:**

General Education Committee - monitor GE requirements and make changes. Work with Director of Assessment to assure integrated, meaningful assessment

Relevant Experiential and Applied Learning Committee

The Dean's office is concerned because they see the changes coming as disempowering the faculty, with the revised Budget Model potentially warping the landscape of the University in general. She feels strongly that the faculty holds elections to appoint the right faculty to these committees to ensure control of the curriculum.

**Associate Dean's main roles and goals:**

1. Dean Condit is concerned about climate in the college. There are complicated relationships within the units and she hopes to find a more civil way to communicate, both intra- and inter-departmentally.
2. As we trend towards a majority of Term faculty delivering courses, we are moving towards a schism of misunderstanding between term and tenured. We need to develop a better way to listen to each other and understand the roles of each type of faculty member. It is exacerbated by having units with large imbalances as well as the salary differentials. She also would like to see reconstitution of the P&T committee to include

Term faculty to review promotion packets for Term faculty. This would require a Bylaws change, which will go through FC for review and approval. We need to work with the Units to clarify and make more consistent guidelines for Term promotion, and mentor Term faculty along their career advancement paths.

The Dean wants the faculty to be as involved as they can be in pending University changes and policies.

Several faculty suggested that we invite the Provost in to address these concerns and questions.

### **New Business**

Discussion of committee elections - set up a standing election committee to manage nominations and electronic ballot counting. Committee members expressed concerns regarding the visibility of FC and reluctance of people to self-nominate. There were also concerns that other committee bylaws would need to change, and whether FC would be just pushing buttons or actually developing guidelines and actively managing elections. President Burdett argued that breaking the invisibility of FC could be assisted by these elections. Others cautioned to be careful with Bylaws wording on election committee. The final consensus is that CHSFC will agree to manage elections, but that we will be recommending changes to the voting procedures, as well as taking on the authority to make those changes.

A discussion followed of ad-hoc and standing committees at the University level and broader concerns about process and transparency. FC agrees that we should invite the Provost to come and discuss those concerns.

SWS was told by the Dean's office that all majors are going to be eliminated because of 'numbers', and condensed into a single major. The concern is that the 'education economy' is changing and many programs and colleges will be folding in the next 8-10 years. There were concerns about other changes made without faculty input, such as when INSC students were changed without their knowledge/consent to pre-health majors. Pres. Burdett will address these changes with the Dean when they meet next week after break.

### **3. President's Report**

#### **On interests of time:**

**CHSFC Research Grants:** members are asked to review FC Research grant process and come with suggestions for December meetings - specifically changes in solicitation. He made some suggested changes for our review and distributed the document.

**Bylaws:** questions and concerns - Revised Bylaws were distributed and should be reviewed prior to the next meeting. Changes re: Collateral to Term, P&T committee (or two? Term and tenure-eligible), Diversity & Equity committee Bylaws inclusion, etc.

**4. Committee Reports - none given in interests of time**

**Undergraduate Academic Committee:** no report given

**Graduate Academic Committee:** no report given

**Diversity & Equity Committee:** no report given

**Technology Committee:**no report given

**P & T:** no report given

**University Council:** no report given

**Faculty Senate:** no report given

**Dean's office:** no report given

**7. Adjournment and next meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2017.