

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

**Meeting Minutes for December 18, 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
Brian Daugherty (alternate), Faculty Senate Representative
Michael Hall, English
Daniel Cranston, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Charlene Crawley, Interdisciplinary Science
Natasha Long, Mass Communications
Mike Valdman, Philosophy
Matthew Scott, Kinesiology & Health Sciences
Marcia Winter, Psychology
Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Technology Committee Representative, LSEE

Absent

Jesse Goldstein, Sociology
Ed Boone, Statistical Sciences and Operations Research
Liz Canfield, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
Robert Gains, Military Science and Leadership
Joseph Reiner, Physics
Mignonne Guy, African American Studies
Greg Smithers, History
Mike Southam-Gerow, Graduate Academic Committee Representative
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. Jennifer Johnson, Chair of Sociology, and co-Chair of the Gen Ed Task Force, visited.

She presented the committee's first draft, with the purpose of gathering feedback. The General Education Task Force was developed as 16 CHS faculty members to develop a 30-credit General Education credit package fully portable and open for all students and Units in the University. The impetus is that 21 credits are currently mandated, but the "dangling 9" are different from school to school and thus changes of majors often find themselves needing an additional 9 credits.

Info Link: <https://provost.vcu.edu/academic-affairs/gened30/>

Charge from the Provost in January 2016

- Develop a coherent rationale for general education
- Create a 30 credit general curriculum (GenEd30) for all undergraduate majors
 - Allow for maximum portability across schools and majors
 - Allow for contributions from all units involved in undergraduate education
- Develop a process for implementing and managing the new GenEd30

Commitments of the Committee:

- Commitment to Faculty Governance
- Commitment to the Mission and Aspirations of VCU
- Commitment to interdisciplinary problem solving via disciplinary thinking
- Commitment to transparent, sustainable and shared processes

Moving away from Tier 1&2 framework, and into 5 areas:

<https://provost.vcu.edu/academic-affairs/gened30/framework/>

1 course from 4 areas + the 12 Foundational courses = 24, then 2 additional courses (6 credits) of their choice.

Any course in the GenEd has to be open to all majors and all students. Also, if it has a prerequisite course, that course also has to be in the GenEd group and open to all students as well.

Each unit can initially contribute 2 classes towards the 4 areas

Governance:

- Developed recommended Provost-level committee structure
- Committee work with other Units working towards General Education, such that any course going into GenEd will go through this committee.

Town Halls will be offered in January and February, but feedback is also being solicited through an online survey at: <https://provost.vcu.edu/academic-affairs/gened30/participate/>

3. President's Report

Taking over elections: Clarification - the Dean's office's intent was not to transfer actual elections to CHSFC. It was to encourage Departments to bring senior tenured faculty and fresh

faces - more distribution and the experience and perspective that senior tenured faculty to participate. CHSFC members should be encouraging their Departments to make those opportunities available both to Senior faculty as well as educating Junior faculty about the opportunities available.

President Burdett invited the Provost to attend a future meeting to discuss the Standing and Ad-Hoc committees. The Provost will not attend CHSFC, but rather all inquiries must go through the Dean's office. List of potential members was due this past week, but CHS has not yet submitted the College's names yet.

CHSFC Research Grants: The Dean advised that the \$5000 research grants is still in place, and in addition to the \$2500 budget provided by the Dean. The Grant documents will be circulated on Blackboard for a January announcement, award in February. An awards committee will be formed to evaluate applications.

CHSFC Bylaws: Primary item of agenda for January 2018 meetings. Existing Bylaws will be circulated on Blackboard. We will vote, send to Departments for discussion, and the faculty will vote as a whole at the end of April.

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 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2018.