

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

**Meeting Minutes for September 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
Andrew Bristow, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
Joseph Reiner, Physics
Charlene Crawley, Interdisciplinary Science
Michael Hall, English
Jesse Goldstein, Sociology
Natasha Long, Mass Communications
Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Technology Committee Representative, LSEE
Matthew Scott, Kinesiology & Health Sciences
Marcia Winter, Psychology

Absent

Ed Boone, Statistical Sciences and Operations Research
Liz Canfield, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
Robert Gains, Military Science and Leadership
Mignonne Guy, African American Studies
Mike Valdman, Philosophy
Greg Smithers, History
Graduate Academic Committee Representative
Undergraduate Academic Committee Representative
Faculty Senate Representative
Retired Faculty Member
Adjunct Faculty Member
Committee on Administration Representative

1. Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M.

2. Dean Fuentes

Dean Fuentes introduced herself and discussed how she is continuing to promote the College and its faculty and students' accomplishments. She will be announcing soon a \$1

million grant to promote experiential learning in the College, and promoting partnerships with government, local industry, etc. In context of research, promoting research and infrastructure for faculty will continue to grow. Last year was the College's best year for funding, and the College will be expanding services for a grant writer and seed funding for faculty for small internal support to promote scholarship and travel. These promotions will go through the College's Research Council first and distributed.

Hiring of Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs - position will be changing to address mentoring, advancement of professional achievement, letters for awards, P&T, etc. Have hired a professional writer for letters, etc.

Need a person in charge of the website, the College will be moving to a new platform.

Faculty Support: Working to create stability among the faculty - multi-year contracts, more realistic baseline salaries, and opportunities for promotion. She feels that P&T guidelines for term faculty need to be more clear, and the Assoc. Dean for Faculty Affairs will work on that area and it will continue to be a priority.

Diversity and Equity - Groups for promoting success and strategies for success of underrepresented and minority students. Additional scholarships will be announced as well, and she will continue to prioritize enhancing success in all students. Dean Fuentes would like the College's Diversity and Equity Committee to be included in a Bylaws Revision.

3. President's Report

Relaunch of the search for Assoc. Dean for Faculty Affairs - 3 internal and 1 external candidate. He asked them to describe their vision for the candidate - the internal candidates had more pragmatism and realistic support goals - mentorship, support for faculty and staff, increasing the support and governance of term, research faculty and staff. Common themes of this office as an advocate for the faculty - listening to faculty, meeting with Departments and FC.

He was concerned that an external candidate would have a significant learning curve, but the one external candidate described how he would become familiar with the VCU community and hold town halls, etc.

Kathryn Murphy-Judy and Fernando Tenjo are on the search committee, and discussed the committee's efforts for a more diverse pool, but in the end, the candidate pool was excellent, but not much more diversity in the group. Many of the initial candidates received counteroffers or withdrew from the interview process. Consequently, the candidate pool was also science heavy and less diverse. Responses were less than stellar across the board regarding term faculty. Two candidates spoke out about women of childbearing age and family development during early career. Charlene Crawley asked about concerns of one of the candidates being already in

the Dean's office and moving -- would that be an effective move and would his/her points of view be been different enough?

ACM Meeting - the ACM meeting back in revised format. VCU Innovation Gateway Director will be coming to Units. The budget model dominated the discussion - Stirling spoke regarding the internal audit and of operating budgets. The status quo re: budgets is the model for this year. He thinks there's an opportunity in freeing up funds for faculty research and scholarship, retention, recruitment. Dean Acevedo re: Statement of Mutual Expectations (SME) - he is working on a template to put out for a Oct/Nov deadline for new faculty. We should expect to see this in the next few weeks. He does not envision this as needing to be updated frequently, unless job/expectations change.

4. Committee Reports - need representatives for each of these committees (excepting Technology)

Undergraduate Academic Committee: no report given, no rep

Graduate Academic Committee: no report given, no rep

Technology Committee: Kathryn Murphy Judy reported no major changes as of most recent meeting

P & T: no report given, no rep

University Council: no report given, no rep

Faculty Senate: no report given, no rep

Dean's office: no report given, no rep

Library Committee: per Chris Burdett, committee doesn't meet

Strategic Planning Task Force (University): Kathryn Murphy Judy reported that VCU is working towards recognition of civically engaged Universities, through service and experiential learning and research

Strategic Planning (College): Fernando Tenjo reported that final meeting in late September for finalizing the goals and objectives of the College in light of realignment

5. Old Business

Review of CHSFC Recent Accomplishments

2013-14

- Reviewed and approved revised College P&T Guidelines
- Resolution regarding MOOCS - must go through same course reviews as all other courses (UAC/GAC, UUCC)
- \$5000 FC Research Grants Awarded

2014-15

- FC Bylaws Revised and Policies and Procedures developed
- \$5000 FC Research Grants Awarded

2015-16

- Resolution regarding Math Dept 7-year term faculty terminal contracts
- Unit Bylaws Reviewed: LSEE, Forensic Science, Psychology, World Studies, English
- \$5000 FC Research Grants Awarded

2016-17

- CHS Resolution on Diversity and student protection
- FC Concern over no ACM mtgs → reactivated ACM in 2017-18
- \$5000 FC Research Grants Awarded

Discussed moving FC Research Grant process to October for January disbursement, so that those faculty can have funding for summer. Also discussed reviewing and submitting revised CHS Bylaws to faculty for a vote in Spring 2018.

6. New Business

Working on the website, though changes to the overall hosting may delay.

\$2500 budget for CHSFC - no rollover, can be used for travel costs for speakers, rental/workshops, food costs (for workshops, not committee meetings) and other costs as approved by the Dean's off (see below). We will discuss in next meeting what to do with those funds.

Spending Guidelines for College of Humanities and Sciences Committees:

The Guidelines below apply to all CHS committees that have received a budget. All costs must be justified to and approved by the CHS Dean's Office. Committee budgets do not roll over to the next fiscal year. Funds may be used to support:

- Travel costs for speakers for an organized event
- Renting of space for workshops and organized events
- Travel costs for professional development for committee members or for faculty/staff. These should be awarded on a competitive basis.
- Participation in relevant events and workshops
- Food costs are limited to organized events and workshops and are not reimbursable for committee meetings (i.e. lunches)
- Other costs that have been approved by the CHS Dean's Office prior to commitment

2017-18 Agenda: CHS Bylaw revision review and addition/removal of committees, Budget, move research award timing, additional items to be sent to Chris or Sarah before the next meeting.

SWS asked about keeping lab fees, or if they roll back to the Dean's office.

7. Adjournment and next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16 2017.