

Minutes of the LAS Faculty Meeting

November 15, 2011 @ 3:30 p.m.

Room 302

Student Center East

1) Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes of the September 20, 2011 LAS Faculty Meeting were approved.

2) Report of the Executive Committee

Steve Jones reported that the Executive Committee has been working on a number of items including the improvement of graduate funding (making available funding for recruitment, dissertation completion, graduate fellowships), selecting a speaker for commencement and reviewing sabbatical applications. Next, the committee will be reviewing promotion and tenure cases.

3) Report of the Educational Policy Committee

A report of recent EPC activity was made available online to faculty. The report of the revision of the minor in Jewish Studies was approved.

4) Report of the Dean

The Dean reported that a total of 14 cluster-hiring proposals were submitted to the Provost's Office, with almost every single department in the College actively involved.

As was reported by the chair of the Executive Committee, the Dean's Office is currently discussing a variety of options that would improve graduate funding. These options include funds for recruitment and for students finishing up their dissertations. Also considered are other forms of fellowships the College could contribute to or establish. The Dean's Office is currently asking departments to submit graduate funding data. The goal is to enhance graduate funding in the short-term and to make our graduate programs more competitive in the long-term.

The Dean announced that Meeting of the Minds will return in the spring semester with the theme "Identity." Associate Dean Marya Schechtman is currently working on finding 3-4 panelists.

An update on LAS Viewbook project was provided by the Dean. The project is currently in its final stages, and the Dean thanked all those who assisted in the process.

In her budget update, the Dean informed faculty that the State still owes the University \$174 million from last fiscal year. This amount must be paid by December. The state has to date paid half of this year's owed amount.

The Dean announced an agreement for early admission from UIC College Prep High School for qualified students.

In addition to funds made available to faculty in the humanities and in the social sciences, the Dean announced new LAS funding opportunities made available for faculty in the natural sciences. These funds can be for research infrastructure improvements, new equipment, and upgrade of existing equipment.

The College IT department will shortly announce a faculty computer replacement program that will replace the ACCC FACT program.

The Dean made a brief announcement about the President's new scholarship initiative: A minimum donation of \$2,500 made annually for four years will be matched 1:1 by the university. The donor can select a college and department for their donation, and each recipient will receive a maximum of \$5,000 annually.

The update on recent College events included the following:

- Investiture of the NoVo Foundation Endowed Chair in Social and Emotional Learning: Professor Roger P. Weissberg
- Stanley Fish lecture series featuring Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Zizek
- LAS Recognition Dinner

The Dean also invited all faculty to the upcoming holiday party on December 8, 2011 in the East Terrace of Student Center East.

5) Announcements

The Dean recognized all faculty members with landmark service anniversaries.

6) Old Business

There was no old business.

7) New Business

There was no new business.

8) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sloan Williams
LAS Faculty Secretary