

Spring CAS Faculty Meeting Minutes (11 December 2019)

3:30 pm: The meeting was called to order by Dean Mark Button

1. Opening Comments (Agenda Item 1) (by Button)

Button welcomed everyone and noted there was a quorum. This is his first meeting as Dean. He set the agenda to facilitate creative thinking and open collaboration about the future of the College, and to minimize the time spent on routine matters.

a. Updates.

- i. There are three new college advisory committees: Ad hoc Committee on CAS Lecturers; College RCM Budget Advisory Committee; and College Faculty Hiring Advisory Committee. The first committee's task is to recommend appropriate improvements to lecturer status. It is co-chaired by David Woodman and Deb Minter and the report is expected March 1st. The second committee's task is to devise fiscal policies aligned with our core values so that our values drive the budget to support growth in research, teaching and operations. The third committee's task is to advise the Dean on strategic and long-range hiring plans.
- ii. Button has met (or will meet soon) with every chair and director in the College.
- iii. The College has a strong presence on the university's N2025 Strategic Planning Committee that aims to devise a plan for the next 5 years to begin moving toward the 25-year vision described by the N150 Commission. Over ten meetings been held to gather feedback on the plan. More discussion dates will be announced in early January.
- iv. It was announced today that Elizabeth Spiller is the new Executive Vice Chancellor. She is a dean at the University of California, Davis. Her academic area is English with a literature specialization.

b. Election of the Faculty Secretary for a two academic-year term. Button nominated Mark Griep (Chemistry) and then asked for other nominations. There were none. Button asked whether there were any objections. In the absence of objections, he declared Griep as being duly elected.

c. Appointment of Parliamentarian. Button has appointed Kirk Dombrowski (Assoc Dean) as College Parliamentarian.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Spring Faculty Meeting (17 April 2019) (Agenda Item 2) (by Button)

Button asked whether there were any objections to the Spring meeting minutes. In the absence of objections, he declared that they stand as printed.

3. Proposed Changes to the College Bylaws (Agenda Item 3) (by Button)

This is the first reading of the proposed amendment to the College Bylaws. The changes are open to discussion at this meeting. The changes will be brought forward at the Spring faculty meeting for more discussion and a vote. Note that Anthropology was inadvertently left off of the list of departments. This will be corrected.

The Dean and College Executive Committee propose to amend the Bylaws to clarify the purpose, scope and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and to better

distinguish it from other standing committees in the college. Button read a portion of the material on pages 6-8 of the Agenda. The purpose is to facilitate interactions between the chairs and the college. Button called for comments or questions. There were none.

4. Recommendation from the College Curriculum and Advising Committee (CCAC) (Agenda Item 4) (by Kristen Olson, CCAC Comm Chair; Sociology)

This committee is comprised of five elected faculty members, the Advising Center director, and two undergraduates. The full list of recommendations is listed on pages 1 and 2 of the agenda. They are put forward together for consideration.

Olson called for questions or comments. Ken Bloom (Physics) asked whether Item J to rename the Math Major's Statistics option to "Statistics, Data Science, and Machine Learning" was preceded by discussions with other units that offer similar courses. June Griffin (Assoc Dean; English) answered that the name but not the content of the option is being changed. Nevertheless, other units, such as Computer Science, were consulted and there were no objections.

Olson asked whether there any objections to the proposed CCAC changes. In the absence of objections, she declared that the changes are approved by assent.

5. Group Discussions: Future of CAS (Agenda Item 5) (by Button)

Button seeks input on the College's Strategic Priorities, such as where to place scarce resources for strategic hiring, fundraising focus, and our vision – where do we see ourselves in 5 years. Each of the twenty tables of faculty in the room today will receive four Discussion Prompts for about 15 minutes each. There are five total discussion prompts so half the tables will receive #4 and half #5. Someone at each table will record the suggestions. The feedback will be used in the College's Strategic Planning process. The UNL N2025 Plan will be finalized this Spring.

The Discussion Prompts were:

1. CAS Vision Statement

Critically discuss the following draft vision statement for the College and provide recommendations for improvement:

Vision for the College of Arts and Sciences at UNL: We will be recognized as a world-leading College of Arts and Sciences for our impactful research and creative activity that improves lives and learning; advancing inclusive excellence and promoting student success; and sustained engagement with local, national, and global communities.

Current Statement about the College: In the College of Arts and Sciences, our passion drives discovery and creative activity. Our research and teaching engage multiple disciplines, foster many different ways of perceiving our surroundings, and pursue multiple paths for exploring the world. We push ourselves and our students to think deeply and broadly—to integrate ideas from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences—in ways that lead to innovation and prepare us for the challenges that tomorrow will bring. Together, we cherish the diversity of people, cultures, and ideas in Nebraska and throughout our interdependent world.

2. College Faculty Hiring Priorities

- a. In what areas should the College invest limited faculty hiring resources in order to best leverage existing strengths in CAS and UNL and to significantly expand research impact and teaching quality?
- b. If the College were to pursue a "cluster hiring" strategy across multiple departments to spur greater interdisciplinary collaborations on key contemporary challenges, in what areas should we seek to

make an impact? Climate change; big data; fundamentals of life and health across diverse scales; other?

3. Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign

The University of Nebraska system is preparing to undertake its next multi-year, multi-billion dollar fundraising campaign.

Thinking Big: What major fundraising priorities should the College of Arts and Sciences pursue over the next five + years to significantly improve our contributions to impactful research/creative work; expand access, inclusion, and improve student success; and deepen our engagement with diverse local and global community partners? If the College were to pursue a “cluster hiring” strategy across multiple departments to spur greater interdisciplinary collaborations on key contemporary challenges, in what areas should we seek to make an impact? Climate change; big data; fundamentals of life and health across diverse scales; other?

4. Faculty and Staff Development

The College and the University have a variety of different programs to help support the professional development of faculty and staff. Are these programs sufficient and/or consistent with your interests and needs? What additional forms of professional/personal development would you like to see offered by the College? How could the College facilitate greater utilization of professional development opportunities by faculty and staff?

5. Preparing students to get jobs

We know current and prospective students and their parents are focused on the costs of higher education and the return on investment. The slide below lists the top five expectations prospective students have for their college education [Get a good job after graduation; Gain practical career skills; Get a solid foundation for an entire career; Gain lasting friendships; Learn to use my talents to benefit society]. What can CAS do to better prepare students to get a good job after graduation?

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Minutes recorded by Mark Griep (Chem)