

Fall 2020 CAS Faculty Meeting Minutes (10 Dec 2020)

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

1. College Updates and information items

a. Updates from the Dean

Everyone was thanked for completing the fall semester under these extraordinarily challenging conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff and faculty took unprecedented steps this summer and fall to help keep our community safe and healthy.

The College has continued to advance its critical mission in liberal arts education. There are nearly 5000 majors and 900 graduate students. There was a 4.4% increase in first-time freshman enroll in the College this fall (800 students) and the most diverse first-time undergraduate cohort: 27.8% identify as URM; 23.8% First Generation; 32% increase in new transfer students.

The number of sponsored research proposals from the college is higher at this point in the year than over the previous four years (with a total of 222 proposals). Total research expenditures have also remained stable in comparison to the same time last year.

This Fall, the College implemented its new distribution requirement -Human Diversity in U.S. communities. It also launched the CAS Cares Fund to support college degree completion for students most at risk of leaving college with no degree. With generous support from donors and friends of the college – including many faculty and staff – it was able to quickly raise \$100k and has already provided financial support to 30 students – both undergraduate and graduate. The NU Foundation has been a great champion of this initiative.

Update 1 – Budget Reductions

Phase 1 reductions were administrative and have already been implemented -- in the college this amounted to \$512,000.

Phase 2 underwent review by the Academic Planning Committee and this week were approved by the Chancellor for nearly \$5.4M. The College initiated its response to Chancellor Green's request for FY2021 budget reduction by meeting with all Chairs and Directors on May 7. Then, all units submitted budget reduction contingency plans and the Dean's Office drafted a College-wide budget reduction plan. This plan was discussed with the College's Budget Advisory Committee on May 22. This committee has broad faculty and staff representation from the college. A second meeting of the College's Budget Advisory Committee was held on May 27 prior to the College's budget reduction plan submission at the end of May. The college will continue to meet with Budget Advisory Committee for advice on the implementation of budget reductions and planning for the future. For details, see the Chancellor's Budget Web Page <https://www.unl.edu/chancellor/phase-two-proposed-budget-reductions-2021-2023>.

Assistant Dean Alicia Kimbrough provided a budget cut overview. The state-aided budget includes categories for Faculty Salary, Admin Salary, Staff Salary, Travel, Operating.

Update 2 – CAS Strategic Plan.

The College was in the midst of developing a five-year strategic plan in response to N2025 when the pandemic caused it to stall. Over 320 people have now participated in the important process of drafting the plan. The current draft of the plan is available online at: https://cas.unl.edu/strategicplan/CAS_Strategic_Plan_12.3.2020_a.pdf.

The next step is to set key priorities and goals for each year of this plan. The College can and will

be a leader for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion on our campus. It is critical to complete our plan so that it drives the College's allocation of scarce resources, especially in the context of the new incentive-based budget model at UNL. All units will submit feedback to the Dean's Office by February 12th, and the College anticipates sharing this plan at our spring faculty meeting in April.

Update 3 – New Guidelines for Lecturers.

The College continues to develop new guidelines for lecturers. The major issues are responsibilities, compensation, and contract length. With the support and collaboration of EVC Spiller, the College is also working to address the salaries of lecturers in the college. This is a sizable issue since the College has nearly 50 lecturers with .50 FTE or greater. Many of them have over 10 years of dedicated service to UNL. In addition, their teaching contributions represented 23% of all SCH within the college last academic year.

The new guidelines (included with the agenda for this meeting) were based upon the final report of the CAS Ad Hoc Committee on Lecturers that was chaired by Debbie Minter and David Woodman. The process involved multiple consultations with Chairs and Directors, the college's Executive Meeting, and an open meeting held early this fall with college lecturers.

These guidelines clarify our teaching standards and expectations for excellence in the classroom; encourage longer contracts of 2-3 years (based on teaching need and budget); clarify teaching load across the college; and ensure annual performance evaluations with connections to mentoring and professional development opportunities.

Update 4 – Upcoming Spring Semester

Mandatory covid testing. The university will operate a mandatory saliva testing program in the spring 2021 semester. All UNL students living within Lincoln and Lancaster County must participate in the program. Faculty and staff who regularly come to campus are also required to test prior to Jan. 25 and every other week thereafter. Those faculty and staff who come to campus infrequently are required to test within two weeks ahead of coming to campus, ideally within two to three days of visits. Testing locations are scheduled to open Jan. 19. Please consult the FAQ page that has been created: <https://covid19.unl.edu/spring-testing>

Named spaces and programs. As a follow-up to last year's N150 Celebration, Chancellor Green asked a small team of faculty and staff to create a master-list of individuals who have been honored or memorialized by the naming of physical structures or major academic programs on our campus. This includes the names of current buildings, internal spaces (e.g., conference rooms, galleries, laboratories, lounges or activity areas), external spaces (e.g., gardens, courtyards, playgrounds, fields), artifacts (e.g., statues, fountains, displays), and major academic and scholarly programs. The College is working with chairs and directors to develop the list.

Option to extend tenure clock has been extended. The Tenure-clock extension request process has been revised again in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Any tenure-track faculty member who was employed by University for any portion of the period January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (and has not been given notice of non-reappointment) is eligible to request a one-year extension of their tenure clock. This option continues to apply equally to all faculty members who may have received previous extensions for other reasons.

College Executive Committee nominations. Please nominate faculty for the College Executive Committee. It is an important deliberative and consultative body.

2. Procedural business

- a. The Secretary: Mark Griep was elected as Faculty Secretary during our fall faculty meeting last year. This is a two-year term and Mark is able to continue in this role.
- b. Minutes from the Spring Faculty Meeting (April 16, 2020). There were no proposed changes to the minutes. The vote was unanimously in favor.
- c. Appointment of Parliamentarian. During the first meeting of the academic year, the Dean must appoint a Parliamentarian. Dr. Robert Gorman has been so appointed.

3. Recommendation from the Dean and the College Executive Committee to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty, Article II, Section 1. Members of the Faculty – to include Lecturers in the definition of Faculty and better align the College’s Bylaws and faculty governance practices with University policies (see UNL Bylaws 3.1.3.1).

Button: The College Exec Comm made this recommendation. It was moved and seconded to approve this motion. The inclusion of lecturers with greater than 50% FTE as faculty aligns the College with Faculty Senate guidelines with regard to curricular governance.

Debbie Minter (Engl): Faculty Senate recognizes lecturers at greater than 50% FTE as faculty. An open question is the issue of requiring them to serve on committees in the absence of compensation given their workload.

Question on Chat: The lecturer guidelines use the term “student course evaluations.” I can’t remember what the new terminology is for the new university-wide instrument is but it seems that the document should use the current terminology.

Button: The College can certainly make that change.

Question on Chat: Why should teaching for lecturers count .125 per 3 cr hour course, when our regular faculty only get .100 per course? For them 4 classes/semester is 100% when 2 classes/semester only counts as 40% for faculty.

Button: The college is currently looking at the standardization of apportionments across the college. A complexity is that lecturers are used differently across the college.

Michael Herman (Bios): The guidelines for lecturers states they can vote on curricular matters within the college. What is the guidance for departments for including lecturers in departmental meetings where votes are taken.

Button: The college will continue to work on aligning its bylaws with those of departments and to clarify the process for electing college committees; we encourage all departments to include lecturers in department meetings and to include lecturers in decisions and voting related to curriculum.

Nora Peterson (ModLang): This motion acknowledges the important contributions of lecturers.

Amanda Metcalf (CAS Staff): There are no more questions on Chat.

Button: Launch the poll to vote.

62 yes, 0 no, 7 abstain

4. Recommendation from the College Curriculum and Advising Committee to approve for the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Catalog. See Appendix, pages 12-89.

Scott Stoltenberg (Psych): The CCAC has five elected faculty members, the Advising Center Director, and two undergraduates. The recommended changes were summarized from the agenda.

Kristen Hoerl (CommStudies): Noticed that many of the Communication Studies courses were cut from the Film Studies curriculum but didn’t know this change was being considered.

James Brunton (Film): The retained Communication Studies courses had explicit links to the curriculum. The others were deemed to have less direct connections.

Marco Abel (Film): The requirements for a Film Studies major was changed to focus on film studies methodologies. Film Studies offered to meet with CommStudies to discuss which other courses meet the Film Studies curricular goals.

Kelly Stage (English): The Renaissance Studies program will remain at 18 credits, but the minor will be restructured. The agenda incorrectly says it will be reduced to 15 credits.

Assoc Dean June Griffin: A number of the proposed changes were driven by insufficient numbers of students graduating. A number of other programs are restructuring. The math major changes allow students to earn either a BA or BS in all their programs.

Stoltenberg: Programs are also making adjustments to their options.

Abel: Jody Kellas via Chat proposed to retain "Comm and Pop Culture" from Film Studies rather to delete now and add it back later.

Brunton: Agrees to the amendment

Robert Gorman (Parliamentarian): The College should see the written amendment.

Jody Kellas (CommStudies): Asked to create an amendment to keep Comm 280 "Comm and pop culture" and Comm 452 "Media and culture" on the list rather than deleting and re-add later.

Button: Marco would you like to make the motion?

Abel: The motion is to not delete Comm 280 "Comm and pop culture" or Comm 452 "Media and culture" from the Film Studies program changes

Gorman (Parliamentarian): The motion should be to add something.

Abel: Motion is to retain COMM 280 and COMM 452 back into the existing proposal for the revised Film Studies major

Griffin: Just a clarification that these courses are part of the options. Seconded the motion.

Button: Should The College proceed with a single amended vote?

Gorman (Parliamentarian): Everyone appears to understand the motion

Button: Launch the poll to vote.

64 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

5. Recommendation from the College Curriculum and Advising Committee to approve required changes to majors and minors housed in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering as part of their transition to the College of Engineering as their sole college. See Appendix, pages 90-124.

Stoltenberg: The recommended changes were summarized from the agenda.

Button: These recommendations are the final changes as the CSE moves fully to the College of Engineering. It refers back to a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding to create a School of Computation. It was important to allow students to pursue their current degree paths until they graduate. There is an agreement for CAS to recoup losses from some recent investments in CSE. CAS departments will continue to build computational and data science capacity and faculty members from CSE and CAS will continue to engage in research and programmatic collaborations.

Griffin: The minors are not being eliminated but are being moved.

Ken Bloom (Physics): Asked whether it was a problem to vote to move these programs to a program that doesn't exist.

Button: The timing for the proposed School has been delayed, but the move to COE is required.

Griffin: The School of Computing is being approved and budgeted but has not yet been finalized.

Minter: Although CAS is going to grandfather current majors, the college is not in a position to provide oversight to those majors in the absence of CSE faculty.

Griffin: All courses are being moved to College of Engineering

Bloom: Asked whether we could make this motion contingent upon creation of the School.

Button: The creation of the School is in the final stages.

Clint Rowe (EarthAtmos): Should we just vote to move it to College of Engineering instead of worrying about the School of Computing?

Button: According to the motion, we are voting on the move to the College of Engineering.

Bloom: Some of the motions and appendices mention the School.

Button: It was moved and seconded to add: Pending approval of the School of Computing.

Button: Launch the poll to vote.

50 yes, 1 no, 8 abstain

6. Questions and Feedback

Button: The floor is open for any questions or feedback.

Discussion

Griffin: Acknowledged everyone's hard work under the trying circumstances of the last semester.

4:55 pm: The meeting was adjourned

Submitted by Mark Griep, CAS Faculty Meeting Secretary