

## **CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: Monday, December 10, 2018**

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved unanimously at 2:31 PM.

### **2. Approval of the minutes from November 2018**

Approved unanimously at 2:31 PM.

### **3. Dean's Report**

The Dean reports that he has a few things to share from his recent meeting with the Provost. First, she was receptive to concerns about the Academic Master Plan (AMP). The Deans' Council adopted a fast-track clearance process for new "no-brainer" program initiatives and created a sub-committee for it. These proposals will still go through Faculty Senate, and those still at stage one or two will still have to follow a different process, perhaps going back through the Deans; however, these details haven't been finalized yet. The main point, though, is that the Provost did not resist his argument that faculty should be involved in AMP design.

Second, regarding the budget, the information presented at the recent town meeting indicates that we're in a "weird position" right now, with the future either "very rosy" or challenging. The problem is that we have no leeway for dealing with the latter scenario, the Interim Chancellor is still under pressure as she will be judged on her performance here. A top priority is how to deal with the surge in enrollments we just received, which would normally indicate a revenue surge (and thus money to offer additional courses), but this time does not, mainly because many more students than expected took advantage of the fifth free academic course, causing a monetary "leak."

CLA did the best estimate possible of what NTT General Operating Fund (GOP) would be at the end of this year, when for the first time these funds were put into an entirely separate pot. For the past two years, the administration has taken CLA's surplus whenever one existed, but then held him responsible for any deficit. This is now an \$8.4 million fund, but he projects a deficit this year because of the addition of 50-60 sections that weren't in the initial plan for the fall semester (included 10 first-year seminars, 10 or 11 ENG101 sections, all of which filled). He felt it was necessary to do this because if students have trouble finding courses they need, we'll have a retention problem. This deficit issues isn't just a "CLA problem," because many of the students in these courses come from outside CLA. It is an ongoing battle. The Provost said only that she sees his point.

The Dean notes that Cheryl Nixon is very actively looking across the university to see how we can save on NTT expenses, and that he will draw the Faculty Senate into this battle if he needs to. It is an immediate concern, for cancellation issues will arise for January classes soon. CLA will stick with its standard procedure: some classes will be cancelled if enrollment is low. They may have to raise the cap on ENG courses from 16 to 18, but hopefully just for the spring semester. He is still pushing this issue with other colleges, because it is not just a CLA matter.

Senator asks why a separate NTT/GOF fund exists at all. The Dean explains that it was created to get a handle on NTT spending, which was usually in deficit, making it extremely hard to get money to add even one additional section. For a long time the administration thought we were making money by adding NTTs, so added them freely, when in fact this created a deficit. Now it is a budgeted item. Senator asks whether there is still a need for this for NTT with continuing appointments and stable workloads. The Dean says there is still a need for flexibility for hiring associate lecturers to supplement continuing appointments.

Moderator says she was relieved by the recent REAB meeting but also disappointed. As backstory, she explains that the original REAB proposal four years ago left out faculty completely. The process was very top-down, with a private firm hired to design the plans and results that were mismatched with UMB needs and more reflective of corporate priorities (e.g. shared office space, glass walls, Humanities broken up spatially, etc.). After a faculty backlash, the plans were ultimately rejected. Today's REAB meeting did make some people nervous. REAB is needed in order to relocate offices currently in the old Science building. The previous plan did have some good features, such as improvements to offices. The new REAB budget is very tight, with no aesthetic improvements; however, on a positive note, most of CLA will not be relocated, so it will be less disruptive for faculty. Unfortunately, with Ryan Lounge being converted into a computer lab, we will lose one of our very few big meeting spaces, and also a space where students hang out. It also seems that the first-floor McCormack café is not being repurposed in the foreseeable future.

The Dean responds that the Honors College will move to Wheatley, and the Labor Studies Center will move to make room for Student Success, but otherwise CLA will mostly be left alone. The first problem with the old plan was that in an effort to give everyone the same nice improvements as Sciences received, the goals were too ambitious. Also, there was resistance to the Deans' efforts to involve faculty. "Maybe out of anger," the administration seems to have spent some of that money on improvements to the catwalks, the new balcony for Clark gym, etc. There is now very little money left for the Science departments who need it. Anthropology labs will also move, but CLA space will be left mostly intact.

Moderator adds that the plan clearly includes cutting the Centers and Institutes to make space for other units to move to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of Healey.

Senator asks whether there are any plans for the McCormack Theatre, pointing out that this is the only campus theater with a sprung floor, and it is still needed and used. The Dean isn't sure, but he has heard no mention of plans for the theatre.

Moderator notes that Neil Bruss has been appointed to the AMP committee, so at least CLA has a representative on that body. The Dean says that he was brought on because of Curriculum, adding that it is not really a "committee," just the Deans continuing to work on the AMP process. Moderator stresses that because they will be discussing curricular priorities, more faculty input is necessary. The Dean assures her that he will keep pushing for this.

Dean's Report ends 2:58 PM.

#### **4. Moderator's Report**

Moderator explains that she has invited a representative from student government to join us at the end of today's meeting. This outreach is intended to begin establishing closer communication between student government and the Senate.

#### **5. Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following NEW courses:**

*ANTH 279*

*MUSIC 184*

Motion to approve as a block approved unanimously. Motion to approve changes approved unanimously at 3:00 PM.

#### **6. Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following CHANGES to existing courses:**

*DANCE 131*

*DANCE 133*

*DANCE 233*

*DANCE 325*

*ENGL 292L*

*CINE 292L*

*SPAN 103*

*HIST 115L*

Moderator summarizes the rationale for changes in the above courses, which are all cosmetic and minor, and notes that ENGL 2929L (which is just a crosslisting with CINE 292L) was added late to Xythos.

Motion to approve as a block approved unanimously. Motion to approve changes approved unanimously at 3:02 PM.

#### **7. Discussion of draft Senate statement on UMB Centers & Institutes**

Moderator explains her impression that the motive of the recently created Task Force is to eliminate C&I, so the Senate's statement on this matter is very important, especially since the REAB plan announced today clearly excises C&I space from Healey.

Senator asks for more information about C&I space. Another Senator explains that the administration wants to move all of the racial and ethnic institutes, currently on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of Healey, into the Trotter Institute's space. The optics of this move are terrible, with people of color all segregated into one place. Anita Miller's plan argues that the Trotter Institute has unused space, a conclusion reached after doing measurements and two audits, which counted space per person but only for faculty and staff, not including students, visiting scholars, etc. Moderator adds that the plan to move C&I was justified to "accommodate the decreased size" of the C&Is. Senator describes the process as very top-down and non-transparent. In addition, she

has heard that ORSP will move to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor so that they will be “right next door” to help with C&I efforts to raise external funds. This move will happen in January.

Moderator notes that a sentence about this issue should be added to the Senate statement.

A Senator who is on the task force states that it includes only one Dean, and it is the Dean who made the controversial decision to merge the School for Global Inclusion with the College of Education—in other words, someone already working in service of the administration’s agenda to eliminate C&I. This suggests that the task force was pre-designed to further this goal.

Moderator says that she thought the Provost included the Senator and Paul Watanabe on the task force to show that the C&Is are on board with these changes. It now looks like including them was part of the same top-down imposition of the administration’s down-sizing plans.

Senator reads new version of draft statement aloud.

Moderator suggests minor edits, including adding “space” to the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph. Moderator also suggests that the sentence on page 2 beginning with “If the primary condition” be bolded, since it is very important to articulate and stress this point right now. Same for the sentence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on page 1, beginning “These programs not only cultivate...,” in order to draw readers’ attention to the key points of the statement.

Senator says he attended the recent town hall and was struck by the fact that the whole upper administration is white. He knows there is probably no way to get this into our statement, but wonders if there is something that could be done (now or in the task force) to prevent silencing the fact that a white administration is cutting C&Is that serve a largely non-white constituency.

Moderator agrees that it might be hard to include this point in the current statement, but says it is definitely important to address it a later step. Senator acknowledges the point, saying he would continue to push this issue in other circles.

Moderator invites other questions and suggestions for pathways for this statement, in addition to inviting the Provost to meet with the Senate.

Senator asks again if we should say something more urgent about the non-transparent process of relocating the C&Is, for instance stating that the task force must address the space issue?

Senator responds that the task force report is due in March, and that the work will probably be done over the January break when faculty are not around. ORSP is already packing up to move to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor, in any case.

Moderator asks if Senator is comfortable with just adding reference to space to the statement. Senator says yes. Moderator stresses the importance of releasing the statement before the task force meets, putting it on the CLA website, and also sending it to the Provost, all CLA faculty, and the task force chair (Bill Kiernan, former Dean of the School for Global Inclusion).

Senator urges that the statement be shared with the wider group in the administration that is involved in these decisions.

Senator asks if we should conclude the statement with a series of explicit demands. Moderator asks how other Senators feel about this, and all agree strongly. After some discussion, Moderator and Senator resummarizes four demands as follows:

- Recognize the value of the C&Is as core academic programs and thus worth fighting to preserve
- Use a new rubric for evaluation that moves beyond narrow, neoliberal definitions of student success and market viability;
- Acknowledge the history of funding for the C&Is and how promises made in good faith are being broken
- Work with rather than against the legislature to secure financial support for the C&Is

Senator suggests putting these bullet points at the top rather than bottom of the statement, and stresses the urgency of getting the statement out, including to the Globe.

Senator asks about new centers, such as the one for Mexican Studies. Another Senator explains that this one is being funded by a Mexican university (UNAM), so it's not in the same category as the other C&Is.

Motion to circulate the statement broadly, including but not limited to the Interim Chancellor, Provost, UMass President's office, Boston media, faculty union, and all faculty, approved unanimously at 3:30 PM.

## **8. Visit from Kush Patel, Student Events and Organizations Committee Chair**

Moderator welcomes Kush Patel, explains the purpose of the Faculty Senate, and asks how the Senate can support student government (SG).

Mr. Patel states that recent passage of two pieces of student government legislation reflect its two major concerns right now. These are, first, the absence of a prominent U.S. or Massachusetts state flag on campus. Student senator who is a veteran, representing 710 veterans on campus, is bothered by the fact that flags taken down previously for construction have not reappeared. Veterans on campus were thus not able to participate in Veterans Day. Legislation calls on the administration to put up 2 flag poles for this purpose, because without them UMB is breaking the law. Even though the legislation is not binding on the administration, the SG felt the action needed to be taken.

Second, legislation was passed a few weeks ago calling on administration and faculty to start using Open Educational Resources (OER). Mr. Patel states that universities receive funding for this purpose, and UMass Amherst has been using OER for a long time. OER allows students to access free online textbooks, which would be helpful for the many UMB students who can't afford to buy books, and those who buy books but then must drop their class(es). Many students are very passionate about this issue. Community colleges are getting Performance Incentive

Fund (PIF) grants for bringing OER into classes. There are some concerns, for example how to pay a professor who uses her own textbook. But Open Stacks allows professors to put their books online and get royalties that way. SG believes OER is important for student success, and would really like faculty to support its use. There has been some resistance, but he says that UMass Amherst has been “very successful” with OER, and has brought in grant funds for this purpose.

Moderator encourages Mr. Patel to contact student government in CSM, because those students likely have higher book costs than CLA students. Moderator asks if there other concerns, such as parking. Mr. Patel says yes, parking is an ongoing issue, and last year the administration talked to SG about it. Students are “very divided” on this issue, because those who take the T or live in Harbor Point don’t see parking fee as a high priority even if they don’t like the idea of paying \$15/day to park on campus.

Moderator asks how often SG meets. Mr. Patel says biweekly, including the coming Wednesday. After break their three committees will meet (budget & finance, student events & organizations, campus community affairs). Moderator says that the Senate is happy about opening this line of communication, and hopes we can have SG back, perhaps twice a year. Moderator encourages Mr. Patel to email her anytime.

Senator encourages Mr. Patel to move forward on parking, because faculty voting no on the fee increase are doing so in part out of concern about the financial impact on students and staff.

Senator asks whether and how having dorms is affecting student activities. Has there been more student engagement with campus events or with SG? Mr. Patel says yes. For instance, some senators left, so they held special elections in the fall and a lot of dorm students applied. UG now has 4 or 5 senators from the dorms. Vice-President Sam Zino is an RA, so she’s very involved with Residence Life.

## **9. New Business**

Moderator states that she wants to improve our collaboration with Faculty Council and the FSU. To that end, she will work with Faculty Council Chair Heike Schotten, who returns in January. Moderator would like to schedule at least one yearly joint meeting. She also reports that the Executive Committee discussed changing the bylaws to create a reciprocal seat for someone from FSU and Faculty Council, in order to formalize this collaboration in an ongoing way. One goal is to avoid a situation where all bodies are working on the same things, and repeating one another’s efforts.

Senator asks if other colleges do this. Moderator says that the CSM senate is very new, and CLA is the largest, so it could be hard to make this happen. She would also like to free us up from some of the governance work, an issue we will return to more seriously in February. She asks for thoughts about creating a seat for Faculty Council and FSU, perhaps by redefining one at-large seat as a crossover seat.

Senator states that there would need to be bylaws among the colleges, given CLA's dominance, so that CLA doesn't have an outsized influence on the Faculty Council. Moderator responds that we could perhaps just inform other colleges that we're doing this. Senator repeats the point about the need for a balance of power among the colleges vis-à-vis Faculty Council. Moderator notes that a major frustration is the scheduling of our meetings at overlapping times, but agrees that CLA shouldn't elbow its way into a tighter relationship with Faculty Council. At a minimum, we can let the other senates know.

Senator asks whether it could be an ex officio, non-voting seat. Moderator says yes, that could work. We could communicate that to other colleges. The goal of improving collaboration is to strengthen dialogue across faculty, so that faculty have more influence with the administration. Moderator invites other suggestions for the February agenda. There are none.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.