**CALSFA**

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2020

1. Call to order at 9:04am via Zoom
   1. Attendees: Jennifer Jones, Ryan Stewart, John Galbraith, Travis Mountain, Sean O'Keefe, Alan Grant
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes (October 2020)
   1. Edited for typographical errors

1. Dean’s update
   1. The Dean thanked faculty for hard work under challenging conditions. Provost has suggested increasing number of face to face classes, or hybrid classes, or switch to synchronous. CALS is doing pretty good. Fall snapshot: 6% of university courses were face to face, 30% hybrid (virtual + face to face), 18% asynchronous, 40% synchronous. In Spring 21, 5% are planned face to face, 26% hybrid, 51% sync, 18% asynchronous. Face to face and hybrid percentages both dropped. CALS has been looking at numbers and we're 59% hybrid and 17% face to face, higher than the university. CALS faculty are working as hard as they can. Many have constraints with childcare, schools, and classroom space. Thank the faculty for doing what they can to make sure classes are high quality.
   2. Some promising budget news. University is losing revenue in various places, colleges put forward 5% reduction plan, will probably get some of that back. Someplace around 2% reallocated to colleges ... how it is reallocated back is still unclear. 229 colleges will get the entire 5% back. Concerned about next year and general assembly in upcoming session to look at impact. Because of relatively flat budget, we have resumed some of the searches that were put on hold for tenure-track faculty and agents, moving forward on a few of those.
   3. Graduate task force report came out. Take a look at that, over 100 pages, and a number of recommendations on how we can enhance graduate education at the university.
   4. Q: Graduate dean hiring is on a 1-year delay. No news on Dean Depauw's position. Q: John G face to face class, class was offered as face to face, synchronous and hybrid. Number of face to face classes dropped off. Appears to be nationwide trend. Dean Sumner said same thing seen across the country. One reason may be that the number of face to face classes is so low that there is lack of motivation to go to class. Some students may prefer synchronous or asynchronous since there are so few face to face, but may be more likely to see value in face to face if more classes offer that modality. There may be logistical issues like parking and eating, no places to sit between classes, or going home to eat. Dining hall discussion underway ... some discussion of changing the current policy. Upper classmen may select virtual only for ease of logistics. Some universities have said they want to have 100% of classes in-person. VT is allowing flexibility for students and faculty to make decisions.
2. Treasurer’s report
   1. Balance $4886.06. All departments have paid at this point. $51.12 paid for engraving of the award for Dr. Ozzie Abaye.
3. Old Business
   1. The Ut Prosim award was engraved and given to Dr. Ozzie Abaye.
   2. New faculty orientation for Friday. Three faculty helping with orientation for Ut Prosim.
   3. Still planning on impact statement workshop on December 4, working on details and announcement. Classroom space inquiry lead to report there are no classrooms available on that date. How many people will we get? May want RSVP. Probably start at 10 AM. Discussed the option of doing this hybrid with in-person plus zoom. NCB may have space. Cleaning at night but not between classes. Plan was to do deep cleaning after 10 PM. Sanitary wipes are available by the podium.
4. New business
   1. Faculty Senate and faculty associations’ interactions. Senate trying to improve communication between associations and senate. Act as more of a bridge between faculty and senate. The College of Business does not even have faculty associations. Starting fall 2021 the faculty senate will allow a faculty senate member from the faculty associations. The plan is for each faculty association rep to have a 3-year term, making it unclear what to do if someone rotates off their association. Need elected member to represent CALSFA. Can it be a faculty association officer not just a faculty member in the college? May make sense to have secretary or treasurer so they get the 3 years in the position. Need to decide how to manage this. May need to change bylaws to make this work. Make faculty senate report as part of the agenda. May select one of the departmental reps to serve as this executive committee. Will they expand the senate or have an appointed senator? Intent was to increase number of senators. Goal was to improve communication line. May be easier just to have a college senator appointed to CALSFA to be our communication.
   2. Proposed development of ex-officio position on CALSFA committee. The faculty senate executive committee and faculty association presidents have discussed creating an ex officio position on each faculty association for that college’s faculty senate officer. Discussion points included: Is this communication overkill since we will have a CALSFA member on the senate? Are there alternatives such as inviting faculty senate officer to attend one or 2 faculty association meetings per semester? Executive committee may be better communication source than just a faculty senate meeting. However, should the faculty senate tell faculty associations how to operate, including changes to structure and functions? A vote was taken, with the majority of CALSFA officers saying no to the creation of an ex-officio position at this time, but CALSFA will explore other avenues to improve communication.
5. Meeting Adjourned at 10:09am

Next meeting: December 8 at 9:00. Same zoom link would be used for all meetings.