

Minutes of the LAS Faculty Meeting
October 22, 2018
3:30 p.m.
Cardinal Room, Student Center East

1. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the March 22, 2018 LAS Faculty Meeting were approved.

2. Election of Secretary

The LAS faculty unanimously elected Professor Rebecca Lind to serve as the AY 18-19 LAS faculty secretary. Professor Jack Jones was appointed to the role of LAS parliamentarian.

3. Dean's Report:

The Dean opened her report by stating that there was much good news to report. UIC has received a wave of positive press recently. Highlights included UIC being ranked 7th—just behind Harvard University and a few spots ahead of Stanford—on the “Best Values” list in the 2018 *Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education* rankings, as well as being named by *Forbes* magazine a one of the “Top 10 Low-Profile, High Value Colleges.” UIC had also risen 16 spots on the annual “Best Colleges” rankings published by the *US News and World Report*. UIC moved up due to improvements in graduation and retention rates and through being one of the top performers for the magazine’s new social mobility indicators

The Dean further announced that LAS enrollment continues to improve, even when measured against last year’s banner year. Enrollment is up past the 10,000 undergraduate student mark, and continuing student numbers are exceeding expectations. The Dean shared a short slide presentation covering the following information: LAS undergraduate numbers have risen by over 1,000 students in the past 5 years; over 50% of first-year students are from historically underrepresented groups; 60% of first-year students are Pell eligible; and 33% of first-year students report that their parents had no college experience.

The College has once again been working with department heads on planning for the Advanced Chemical Technologies Building (ACTB) which has now been reconceived to include student labs and classrooms. She also reported on additional capital projects such as the exciting recently opened Math Science Learning Center and continuing renovations to undergraduate teaching labs.

The Dean continued by stating that sustained growth cannot take place without hiring in areas of student demand and academic excellence. She reported that 20 faculty hires joined LAS this year, and that an even higher number of searches were authorized for the coming year. These searches include four Head/Director searches as well as endowed position searches. The Dean was grateful for campus support and funding toward many of the searches and noted that these new faculty members will help to improve the College’s capacity to serve students as well as grow LAS research productivity.

The Dean reported that budget news also continues to improve in comparison to previous years. The LAS budget has increased due to higher enrollment numbers and projected credit hour increases. However, the higher enrollment numbers have also brought cost increases, in part because of the need to hire additional instructors while the College works to increase faculty lines. The Dean noted that cost increases and inflation continue to outstrip budget increases, and therefore some cost-saving measures were still in place across the College. However, recent robust student numbers should improve the College's budget situation in the years ahead.

LAS fundraising initiatives also continue to go well and have surpassed campaign goals. The College recently hosted successful alumni events both in LA at The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, as well as on campus with LAS Political Science Professor Dick Simpson. The LAS Board of Visitors has also rallied in support of doubling student scholarships by creating the BOV IGNITE Campaign Scholarship Challenge, which is already over 90% fulfilled toward reaching its \$100,000 match goal. The Dean also mentioned two separate million-dollar commitments that had recently been received for both Chemistry research and education, and STEM inclusion initiatives. The Dean thanked the many faculty members who already generously support the College through significant giving in areas such as student scholarships and the Finish Line Fund.

The Dean went on to remind faculty about support services for students who are in distress and to strive to be aware of students who may need assistance. She reminded faculty that they should notify the Dean of Students, Linda Deanna, as soon as possible if they had concerns for a student's emotional, psychological, or physical wellbeing.

The Dean closed her report with a short slide presentation about how LAS is making a concerted effort to better promote and share the successful research contributions and implications of LAS faculty with both internal and external audiences. To better tell our research story, LAS has consulted with executive officers and the executive committee and developed five categories that encompass much of the research strength and breadth currently active across the various disciplines in LAS. The five categories, which will continue to evolve over time, include:

- Health Matters
- Urban Issues- Local to Global
- Educational Research
- Fundamental Science and Mathematics Research
- Emerging: Data Science across disciplines

The Dean closed by thanking the faculty for their continued hard work and dedication to LAS students. She acknowledged that the last few years have been difficult and added that LAS is coming out of those years in a strong position now because of our faculty's excellence and commitment to student success.

4. Report of the Educational Policy Committee:

The faculty unanimously approved the following items:

Departments of Biological Sciences

- (1) Proposal to Revise the Major in Biological Sciences
- (2) Proposal to Revise the Major and Minor in Biological Sciences

Departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry

Proposal to Revise the BS in Biochemistry

Departments of Biological Sciences and Psychology

- (1) Proposal to Revise the BS in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Integrated Health Studies
- (2) Proposal to Revise the BS in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Integrated Health Studies

Department of Communication

Proposal to Revise the Major in Communication

Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice

Proposal to Revise the Major and Minor in Criminology, Law, and Justice

Department of Earth and Environmental Science

Proposal to Revise the Major in Earth and Environmental Sciences

Department of Economics

Proposal to Revise the Minor in Economics

Department of French and Francophone Studies

Proposal to Revise the MA in French and Francophone Studies

Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies

- (1) Proposal to Establish the Minor in Spanish for the Professions
- (2) Elimination of the BA in Spanish-Economics

Department of History

Proposal to Revise the BA in the Teaching of History

Departments of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science

- (1) Proposal to Redeisgnate and Revise the BS in Mathematics and Computer Science
- (2) Proposal to Revise the Major in Statistics

Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures

Redesignation of the MA in Slavic Studies as the MA in Polish, Russian, and Central and Eastern European Studies

Redesignation of the PhD in Slavic Studies as the MA in Polish, Russian, and Central and Eastern European Studies

Redesignation of the MA and PhD Concentrations in Polish Literature and Culture as the MA and PhD Concentrations in Polish Studies

Redesignation of the MA and PhD Concentrations in Russian Literature and Culture as the MA and PhD Concentrations in Russian Studies

Revision of the Degree Requirements for the PhD in Slavic Studies (MA and PhD in Polish, Russian, and Central and Eastern European Studies)

Establishment of an MA and PhD Concentration in Central and Eastern European Studies

Department of Sociology

Proposal to Revise the PhD in Sociology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Redesignation and Revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Individual Plan of Study as the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Liberal Studies

For Information Only

Department of Chemistry

Proposal to Revise the MS and PhD in Chemistry

Department of Economics

Proposal to Change the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code of the MA in Applied Economics, MA in Economics, and PhD in Economics

Department of Philosophy

Proposal to the Revise the Admission Requirements to the PhD in Philosophy

5. Report of the Executive Committee:

Serdar Ogut, Chair, delivered the report of the LAS Executive Committee. Since the last faculty meeting the AY 17-18 Committee considered several faculty matters including one senior faculty appointment, candidates for both the LAS Distinguished Professor Award and the LAS Faculty Service Award, as well as an Emeritus request. The Committee also discussed the National Survey of Student Engagement results, faculty hiring, student recruitment and enrollment matters, and had met with the Provost.

In the current Academic Year, the Dean has welcomed seven new committee members and provided the committee with ongoing College updates, which focused on areas such as the College's improving rankings and news coverage; student enrollments; faculty hiring; drafting the LAS Research Profile; and the budgetary situation and its implications for the College's planning. Over the past 3 meetings, the Committee has also considered 2 Emeritus requests, the need for standing committee replacements, and 28 faculty sabbatical requests. The Dean has further laid out some of the committee's priorities for the year and asked the committee to provide ideas for what they would like to discuss.

6. Announcements

Faculty Awards

The Dean recognized several recent award recipients including: Wonhwa Cho, recipient of the UIC Distinguished Professor award; Award for Excellence in Teaching recipients Sara Hall, Serdar Ogut, and Kara Morgan Short; and University Scholar recipient, Misha Stephanov. Two new LAS Service Award recipients were announced, Professors Nadine Naber and David Marker, and Professor Marker joined the Dean at the podium to receive his award and to be recognized for his exceptional service.

Other Announcements

The Dean announced that her Fall Semester Office Hours would be held on October 30th from 1 – 3:00 p.m. on the 4th floor UH. All faculty members were encouraged to come if they have items to discuss.

The Dean also encouraged faculty members to attend the Fall Commencement Ceremonies on December 15 at the UIC Pavilion (subsequently renamed Credit Union 1

Arena).

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

There was no new business

9. Adjournment at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lind
LAS Faculty Secretary

