

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

**1. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the November 27, 2017 LAS Faculty Meeting were approved.

**Agenda Amendment**

The Dean announced an amendment to the agenda moving the Executive Committee Report up to the beginning of the meeting to allow the faculty presenter of the committee report to attend other campus commitments. The remaining agenda items then followed as originally planned.

**2. Report of the Executive Committee:**

Laura Anderson, a member of the Executive Committee, delivered the Executive Committee report in the absence of the Committee Chair, Connie Meinwald. Since the last faculty meeting, the Committee had met six times. The Committee had received updates from the Dean and provided counsel on issues related to the College's budget situation; student applications, admissions, and enrollment numbers; and other issues related to faculty and academic affairs. Further, the Committee had reviewed and provided recommendations to the Dean on several faculty affairs matters, including: College promotion and tenure cases, University awards, Emeritus requests, and Lecturer promotions. The majority of the Committee members had also been involved in the five-year reviews of several departmental executive officers, and a few had served on a campus-wide committee formed to review P&T policies and procedures.

**3. Dean's Report:**

The Dean opened by noting that the College is continuing to do well, as evidenced, in part, by UIC exceeding the 30,000 student-mark for the first time ever. The current LAS first-year class represents a 25% increase over last year, the largest first year enrollment since 1980. She noted how remarkable an achievement this was, given that the University had not had a budget for two years. She expressed her gratitude to the faculty for helping to ensure the College's forward momentum despite the State budget situation. She further shared her excitement for the future as the College's momentum continues to grow through winning faculty awards, hiring excellent faculty, investing in spires of excellence, and considering how strategically best to move forward.

The Dean added that the College is planning for another large class for next year. Both applications and admits are running higher than Fall 2017 numbers. While intent to

enroll numbers are running slightly below Fall 2017 at this point in time, they are still around 80% higher than Fall 2016, and the UIC Ignite Admitted Student Day is still on the horizon. The Dean was grateful that almost all departments would be represented at the Ignite event, and she encouraged faculty to participate.

The Dean further thanked LAS faculty for participating in the Midterm grade submissions. LAS had the highest rate of midterm grade submissions for the Spring 2018 semester across the campus, with LAS reaching 90% and many departments reaching an 100% submission rate. This practice has been proven to contribute significantly to student success and retention.

The Dean noted that she did not have much new to say about the budget since the last faculty meeting. She reported that the College is well on the road to recovering its footing, however, the College still struggles with a decreasing budget and increasing costs, and therefore is still seeking cost-cutting measures to offset its deficit. Specifically, ACCC rate increases, salary increases, and benefit increases all have to be provided for within the College's current budget. Additionally, while the record enrollment is a boost to tuition revenue, it is not immediately reflected in the LAS budget as the campus uses a three-year average for tuition revenue distribution. Further, as previously reported, campus reallocations have resulted in the college not receiving its full allocation of tuition revenue according to the tuition return formula.

On the positive side, the Dean was pleased to report that just recently the campus had allocated new funding to LAS to hire new faculty and additional advisors and to cover math placement test costs. While the College is only 1 of the 15 colleges on campus, it is receiving 23% (7) of the 30 new faculty members being funded by the campus program next year. Further, LAS is receiving non-recurring funds to help fund faculty start-up costs and to assist with costs associated with the learning centers. The Dean noted that this is the brightest the budget has looked since she has been Dean.

The Dean continued by stating that sustained growth requires hiring in areas of student demand and academic excellence. LAS is currently hiring 18 new faculty members to start in the coming academic year, and she noted that it has been exciting and invigorating to see the CVs of the new class of professors coming to campus next year. LAS is currently working on plans for aggressive faculty hiring in AY 2018-2019, above and beyond the hires mentioned previously as part of the campus program.

The Dean commented on building and infrastructure, noting the much needed new building across from UH, which will include student residences as well as classroom and academic spaces. Additionally, LAS is planning for a Fall grand opening of the new Math and Science Learning Center. This represents a significant investment on behalf of the College and the campus. There is further good news in that the ACTB (Advanced Chemical Technologies Building) is once again on the Governor's budget list. The campus is exploring all avenues for this building, as it is necessary to maintain faculty research excellence. The College is also working with campus to increase teaching lab space.

The Dean reported that it has been an excellent year for LAS Advancement efforts. LAS has already surpassed its annual goals. The annual LAS Scholarship Award and Recognition Luncheon had recently taken place, and the Dean noted that this is always one of the best events of the year for LAS as it brings together scholarship donors with their scholarship recipients. This year LAS had honored the Davee Foundation, which had recently given \$1.5 million in additional scholarship funds to bring its total scholarship commitment to the LAS Davee Scholarship fund up to \$3 million. LAS had also received new commitments from donors at the luncheon to both increase their support or start new funds. Additionally, the LAS Board of Visitors has created a \$100,000 Ignite Campaign Challenge Match to support the College's goal of doubling the number of LAS students who receive scholarship support each year. The LAS Board of Visitors, which has recently expanded its membership, has also been active through creating videos to help students and through recommending ways to promote LAS to wider audiences and the private sector.

Further, the College's Learning Sciences Research Institute (LSRI) is the recipient of a 5-year, \$2.5 million dollar grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation to support research on "How Teachers Learn: Orchestrating Disciplinary Discourse in Science, Literature, and Mathematics Classrooms." Thanks to the efforts of Executive Associate Dean Dibyen Majumdar, LAS has also received a gift to fund the UIC TransUnion Professorship in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science (MSCS). This is the first professorship in the College, and it is expected that this will enable us to attract prominent scholars and create exciting new research opportunities for our students. UIC has also received \$1.9 million in grant funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: close to \$900,000 as a renewal for the work of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research, headed by Professor Maria de los Angeles Torres; and \$1 million for an Engaged Humanities initiative, headed by Provost Poser.

The Dean announced that she would be holding Dean's Office hours in April, and regularly thereafter if there is faculty interest. She concluded her report by congratulating Professor Luis Urrea on his new novel *The House of Broken Angels*, which was already in its 3<sup>rd</sup> printing even before its publication date, and which has been widely greeted in the media.

#### **4. Report of the Diversity Committee:**

Professor Nicholas Huggett reported that the Committee had been working on two correlated avenues relating to diversity and inclusion matters: first to facilitate communication with LAS faculty and campus administration, and second to facilitate actions. He noted that the Committee had met with: 1) the new Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost for Diversity regarding the Diversity Strategic Plan and other plans; 2) the Dean's Student Advisory Board focusing, in large part, on disability issues and the newly planned Disability Cultural Center; and 3) with members of the Diversity Council, which included representatives from the various LAS departments and programs, some of whom

expressed an interest in better understanding graduation and retention rates. The main action the Committee had undertaken was to announce a call for submissions for a Diversity Initiative Grant which would fund a small number of grants totaling up to \$10,000.

## **5. Report of the Educational Policy Committee:**

The faculty unanimously approved the following items:

### **Department of Biological Sciences and Department of Chemistry**

Revision of the BS in Biochemistry

### **Department of Chemistry**

Revision of the BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Chemistry

### **Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences**

Revision of the BS in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Earth and Environmental Sciences

### **Department of French and Francophone Studies**

Revision of the BA in Liberal Arts and Science, Major in French and Francophone Studies

Revision of the BA in the Teaching of French

Revision of the Minor in French and Francophone Studies

### **Department of Philosophy**

Revision of the PhD in Philosophy

### **Department of Physics**

Revision of the Minor in Physics

### **Department of Political Science**

Proposal to Revise the MA and PhD in Political Science

### **Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures**

(1) Renaming the Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures as the Department of Polish, Russian and Lithuanian Studies

(2) Consolidation and Revision the BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Polish and BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Russian as the BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Polish, Russian, and Central Eastern European Studies  
Establishment of Concentration in Polish Studies  
Establishment of Concentration in Russian Studies  
Establishment of Concentration in Central and Eastern European Studies

(3) Renaming and Revision of the Minor in Polish as the Minor in Polish Studies  
Renaming and Revision of the Minor in Russian as the Minor in Russian Studies  
Establishment of the Minor in Central and Eastern European Studies

**Information-only Item**

**Department of African American Studies**

Revision of the BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in African American Studies  
Revision of the Minor in African American Studies

**6. Announcements:**

The Dean encouraged all faculty to attend the upcoming Spring Commencement Ceremony at the UIC Pavilion on May 13, 2018. Robert Mariano, founder and namesake of the Mariano's grocery store chain, will be the Commencement speaker, and Juan Salgado, Chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago, was named as an honorary degree recipient.

**7. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**8. New Business**

There was no new business

**9. Adjournment at 4:11 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lind  
LAS Faculty Secretary