

Arts and Sciences Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Attendees: Cristina Alcalde, Ruth Beattie, Christian Brady, Anna Bosch, Betty Lorch, Sarah Lyon, Carrie Oser, Peter Perry, Brian Rymond, Rich Schein, Michelle Sizemore, Suzanne Segerstrom, and Akiko Takenaka

Interim Dean Christian Brady called the meeting to order, followed by introductions from each committee member. Dean Brady gave an overview of his role as interim dean which is to support the continuation of the work being done by the College and to ready the College for the recruiting and hiring of a new dean. He stated that he would not be applying for the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. During his time as interim dean he will be calling on the Executive Committee for input and feedback. Provost Blackwell will also be reaching out to schedule a meeting with the Executive Committee.

Dean Brady took questions/discussion from the committee members:

- Brian Rymond asked what will you do to ready the College for the recruiting and hiring of a new dean? The primary focus will be to get the budget in order. Central administration will likely aid the college in carrying out new hire commitments.
- Carrie Oser stated to utilize the Executive Committee as a sounding board. She asked how will you help build or mend the organizational culture? Have open and often communications. Ensure continued support for faculty to do the work they are currently doing and maintain the strength of existing programs.
- Peter Perry mentioned that there is a great deal of anxiety among the faculty that a respected Dean was removed so quickly. The concern is that a strong Dean was abruptly dismissed because administration has intentions for the College of Arts and Sciences other than its current mission/direction. Dean Brady stated that he does not see any diminishment in the view of Arts and Sciences from administration. He assured that he will work within the policies and procedures of governance that are currently in place.
- Suzanne Segerstrom stated that it will fall on the dean to address the culture issues of the College.
- Brian Rymond stated that a common fear throughout the College is that A&S research is viewed differently by administration because it is not bringing in large sums of money as compared to the medical side of campus, and that the college provides funding to faculty to support their research. The concern is also that diminishing the research mission of the college will impact and limit graduate education.
- Betty Lorch stated the problem is grants for A&S faculty generally do not pay for salaries and this is seen as a negative in administration's eyes. The productivity metric is based on salary buy-outs. A&S research is considered "unfunded" research, and therefore the fear is that faculty DOEs will be required to change to do more teaching rather than research.

Carrie Oser asked for insight in reorganization of the Provost's office.

- With enrollment management being out from under the Provost and under the President, academic officers have no director input into student affairs. The Provost then has very little control over undergraduate education and/or student affairs. There are concerns about dual reporting structure for advising and the reorganizing of diversity and equity.
- The Provost is pushing to bring CORE back under his office. A&S should have a more equitable representation on CORE's decision-making body since A&S teaches approximately 85% of CORE. When other colleges increase enrollment, it impacts A&S's teaching load because of increased demand for CORE classes such as math, sciences, English, etc. There needs to be a tuition reimbursement/tuition reimbursement sharing model that supports the teaching of CORE course for other colleges.

The committee moved to the business of selecting a new chair. Rich Schein explained that the dean and associate deans are ex-officio members of the committee and discussed the role of the committee's chair. The chair runs the committee meetings, consults in advance with the Dean on meeting agenda items, and runs the all-faculty meetings. Usually a 3rd year committee member is selected to serve as chair. Suzanne Segerstrom suggested to select a 2nd year member to serve as chair in order to provide continuity during this period of transition between deans. Following discussion, it was decided to select members to serve as co-chairs. Suzanne Segerstrom moved that Carrie Oser and Akiko Takenaka will serve as co-chairs of the committee. Brian Rymond seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted to approve.

There being no further business, Peter Perry moved to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Sizemore seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Submitted by:

Teresa Smith
Executive Assistant
Office of the Dean
College of Arts and Sciences