

MINUTES OF THE SENATE OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

The September 2020 meeting of the Senate of the College of Liberal Arts was held at 3:30pm on September 8, 2020 via Zoom, with Shannon McMullen presiding. Minutes are submitted by Torsten Reimer.

1. Approval of the Minutes from last CLA Meeting in April

Eric Waltenburg moves to approve the minutes. Don Marsh seconds. Minutes from April meeting are unanimously approved.

2. Chair's Remarks – Shannon McMullen

Opening remarks

Dr McMullen opens the 2021 CLA senate with a land acknowledgment. Dr McMullen acknowledges Purdue University is located on the traditional homelands of many indigenous people: “There are no monuments, signs or named buildings that acknowledge these indigenous caretakers. We should do better. We must do more. The very least we can do today is acknowledge the indigenous people which include the Pottawattamie and the Miami and acknowledge them for being the first stewards of this land.”

Challenging times

Dr McMullen recognizes the challenges of the current year: “As a result of the pandemic, the struggles for racial justice, climate related disasters and life events. As a society and as a college community, we are grappling with monumental challenges. And in such turbulent times, we need first and foremost to find ways to support one another as academics, and to care for one another as people.”

Vital role of the senate

Dr McMullen stresses that the Senate has a vital role to play if it so chooses: “The CLA faculty senate and its committees are places where representatives of the liberal arts disciplines and inter-discipline assembled to speak with each other, and to speak with our administrative leaders about our needs, concerns, ideas and visions for educating, creating and researching towards a sustainable and socially just 21st century. Let interdisciplinary dialogue, the lessons from experience, and a shared desire for the collective success of our programs and colleagues across the college guide our conversations this year. I'm truly honored by the collective wisdom, dedication and creativity representative of the College of Liberal Arts as a whole gathered here today.”

3. Dean's Remarks and Q & A

Extraordinary times

Dean Reingold acknowledges that this is an extraordinary time in the world and our industry.

Reception last week

Dean Reingold highlights the rich virtual reception to honor the CLA awardees last week.

Virtual office hours in Dean's office

The Dean's office offers virtual office hours for faculty, students and staff on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (there will be a sign-up sheet on the CLA website).

Hiring freeze

Dean Reingold shares with the senate that the university is still in the midst of a hiring freeze, which is for all intents and purposes and extends into the faculty. Higher administration said that all staff hiring is frozen unless it's an extraordinary circumstance.

Answers to written questions about the budget and strategic plan from agenda committee

The agenda committee is going to share some written questions about the CLA budget and the strategic plan with the Dean, which the Dean plans to answer in the October meeting.

Questions from the floor about budget

Andrew Flachs (Anthropology) asks about updates on discussions regarding the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (SIS) and whether the staff and faculty freezes will extend to graduate student recruitment for the preview for the upcoming year.

Dean Reingold explains that the college was asked to come up with \$5 million in cost reductions, which is about 7% of our budget. The heads and the Dean's office prioritized two dimensions: "One was that we would do everything we can to not lay anybody off and the second was to defend and continue to deliver all our educational programs."

Dean Reingold asked the Provost for some relief, and the CFO and Provost provided one year of gap funding for certain costs in the College's departments including the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Dean Reingold explains that the College's allocation for graduate students is being reduced by about \$2 million this year. Part of the reduction comes from graduate students who could not start their program in the fall due to travel restrictions.

As a response to a question from Dorsey Armstrong (English) about the status for center grants and Research Refresh, Dean Reingold shares that most programs such as Aspire and travel grants are currently on hold. Some programs like the Research Refresh program are funded through the Provost office.

Dean Reingold will provide more details regarding budget during the October senate meeting.

4. Old Business: Discussion of Land Grant Acknowledgment Language

The senate discusses a proposal about a Land Grant Acknowledgment from last year that acknowledges Purdue University is located on the traditional homelands of many indigenous people.

Eric Waltenburg moves to accept the resolution. Don Marsh seconds. The resolution is unanimously approved. The language of the resolution will be made available on the CLA website.

5. Final business

Paul Draper moves to adjourn, and Will Gray seconds.