

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, February 19th, 2020
3:30PM-5:00PM
ANATOL CENTER

Number of members present: 31

- 1) Call to Order: 3:34PM
- 2) Approval of Agenda: All in favor
- 3) Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2020 meeting: All in favor
- 4) Reports:

a. CLA Dean's Report:

Dean Wallace: I am delighted that the director of the Bob Murphy Access Center is coming today to the meeting. She is relatively new at the job. You will also be hearing from Craig Stone about Ethnic Studies and the AB1460 project. I am also delighted that the Thematic Initiative is getting started. I forgot to ask Dan if we have a committee yet.

There is one substantive change in the Position Description for Associate Dean that I would like to address. The Provost said we should not consider an Associate Professor for the position. That option was then eliminated from the description.

Regarding the Governor's budget, I was surprised when I saw it. There is no money in it for raises. I ran into Gary Hytrek and we both had the same idea: that this is because of the possibility of bargaining. We believe the governor is expecting that there will be bargaining.

Thank you all for coming today. Faculty governance only means something if people participate.

Kevin Johnson: Regarding the budget, I also think it is in response to the bargaining. There will be 6 unions in the CSU system negotiating their contracts at the same time. They are waiting to see how that bargaining goes.

b. Faculty Council Chair's Report

Barbara LeMaster: What we have been working on is getting elections done, getting extra folks for committees. We spent time figuring that out, getting Big Pulse up and running; all the elections were run on Big Pulse.

The Exec met with the Dean and worked on final modifications to the wording of the Associate Dean Position Description.

We are also keeping an eye on what is going on with Ethnic Studies.

We also met with the Interim Director of BMAC. This is important for a couple of reasons, one of them being that faculty are sometimes asked to do things they are not supposed to have to do in terms of accommodations. If you find accommodations overwhelming, you should contact BMAC.

I have spoken with the office that is supposed to be doing subtitling. They bring the materials to the Technology Office. There is policy being evaluated now at Senate Exec about the responsibilities of faculty. That is why we invited the Interim Director of BMAC to the meeting today.

c. Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

i. Educational Policies and Curriculum: Faculty received the invitation to vote electronically for the position on EPCC. Wayne Wright nominated himself for the dean's review committee, but was accidentally added to the EPCC ballot. His name was removed from the ballot.

ii. Budget:

BLM: We discussed the Student Excellence Fee for Technology (SEF-T) proposal. The rationale is at the bottom of Excel document. All proposals were accepted last year [*Barbara showed the document so faculty could see the type of things that are usually requested.*]

Only two exceeded the amount of money we were awarded last year, I.e., \$409,000.: 1. A tripod for HDEV for \$39.00. We suggested they buy this out of department funds. 2. Mobile workstations for journalism, \$67,000. The Chair of journalism was present and approved of the placement of the workstations.

How do these things get approved and funded? If they have not gotten funded recently, there are more possibilities they will get it. Usually we do not know about the results until summer or fall.

Next on the Budget Committee list was CLA Travel awards. There is a CLA Travel Award call that will go out in March. This one will cover June to November. With this earlier call people are able to go to summer conferences (when previously funding cycles did not allow for this time period of travel), and faculty who travel in the summer are able to be refunded faster.

iii. Graduate Council:

Cory Wright: Conversations with Misty Jaffe led to several things: graduate advising, release time for theses or comps supervision, and allocation of graduate students' assistantships.

We will be working on the creation of a Data Subcommittee when the whole Graduate Council meets.

Another important issue is the Project HOGAR. The U.S. Department of Education declined to renew the Project HOGAR HSI grant. I have cumulative results for this project that I have been tracking during the last three years:

*In three years we offered 47 graduate recruitment scholarships, \$4,000 apiece, \$1188,000 in total.

*Each college was allowed to make six nominations (i.e., max. 126).

*Our CLA Graduate Council subcommittee reviewed 46 applications, and made all 18 nominations.

*Of its 18 nominations, CLA was awarded 15 graduate recruitment scholarships for an 83% success rate (\$60,000 in total).

*So, overall, CLA graduate students netted one-third (32%) of the 47 total number of awards (but make up only 13% of the graduate students university-wide (1224/9394 over the past two years)).

iv. Committee for Pedagogy and Inclusive Excellence:

Justin Gomer: We met last week and are working on upcoming workshops. One of them will be in April and we will be working with the newly formed group: Trans Wellness Education and Resources Coalition (TWEREC). We offer pedagogy workshops; we take work we have been doing and translate it into pedagogical practices. We put on great events and the same great folks attend over and over, but those folks are not representative of the whole college. This is an opportunity to work on pedagogical strategies.

Craig Stone: Have workshops been recorded?

Rene Treviño: We have clips of workshops on the CLA site, specifically in the Inclusive Excellence section. We only have clips, not complete workshops.

v. Technology Committee

RT: We regained access top Big Pulse sooner than we thought, but we can still discuss if we want to consider using Qualtrics for the upcoming elections. It is something to keep in mind, but we would have to suspend the constitutional requirement of using a “Single Transferable Vote Ballot,” since Qualtrics does not offer that option.

2) a. Faculty responsibilities regarding accommodations for students with disabilities – BMAC Interim Director, Mary Nguyen, 4 p.m. time certain.

Mary Nguyen: I am here to answer your questions regarding the work we do.

Dmitrii Sidorov: It is impossible to fulfill many accommodations requirements in in the case of online courses. How can I handle distractions? There are issues regarding extra time.

MN: Dmitri reached out to us to discuss this. I take all these concerns seriously. We are also trying to make our forms more accessible for students. On the electronic database, all forms will

be available online, but we are not there yet. We are still using handwritten forms, this requires a lot of work from students, professors, and us.

We try to show support to students and send out the request for accommodations. We are not aware of the structure of all classes, but we send them in case there are accommodations that could be done. In terms of exams, yes, there should be no distractions.

Kathryn Chew: Faculty have asked me what to do if they suspect students need accommodations.

MN: Yes, there are cases sometimes of students whose grades plummet at some point in the semester. It would be useful to send the student a reminder of campus resources, for example, CAPS and the BMAC. We do not know circumstances in students' personal lives. Our office is special because we have a case manager in the office. We can connect students with other services and campus community resources.

Adam Kahn: There is a variety of concerns in my department. There is an issue about classes in which sensitive topics or personal issues come up, and some students have accommodations to record. Faculty has offered to record the lecture separately, but the BMAC says that they need to record during class.

MN: If all of us were hard of hearing and our professor gave us a pre-recorded lecture, we would be getting bits or pieces, not the full discussion.

AK: I recognize this but what if this happens in a class and then students do not want to participate because they are being recorded? That interferes with the process of learning and alters classroom dynamics.

MN: I participated in this conversation you are referring to, and the BMAC has tried to be understanding. It is a complex conversation. We look forward to you supporting students in this way. I want to respect students in class who are participating and your academic freedom. Recordings are protected. If a student is caught dispersing audio recordings, they can face jail time.

AK: I take this very seriously; as a student, I needed accommodations. But it seems like BMAC is not willing to brainstorm with faculty and work on changes. Our department has had serious concerns and we want to collaborate. But we have been told that we are not in a position to contribute to this conversation.

MN: I am sorry it was perceived like that, we do want to work with faculty.

AK: I just wanted to make sure other departments are aware of this.

KJ: The concern is what would be considered reasonable or an undue burden.

MN: I understand we live in fear because of electronic platforms and how materials can be disseminated.

KJ: Yes, there are academic freedom issues, audios can go viral.

Jolene McCall: My concern is the safety of my students. I teach a critical reflective writing course in which students share personal experiences. I had a situation related to this and was able to figure it out. My concern is keeping students safe and allowing them to get the education they deserve.

MN: I also want to discuss test accommodation forms. You have been receiving multiple forms, please know that we understand that is a lot of paperwork. Students' needs are unique and individual. It is easier for us to use this option of individual forms for each assessment.

AK: There have been many changes in BMAC in recent years, in terms of director, procedures, etc. What are some of the differences since you became interim director? There were challenges in the previous administration.

MN: The previous director retired 2 years ago, then we had Carmen Varela who was here for 1 year. Under her leadership we saw more crisis, and we had to reduce student assistance because of budget. Our beautiful building does not cover our financial needs. She was fighting for what she thought students needed. There were a lot of administrative challenges. We have only 10 private rooms, other 10 group rooms, and an overflow room. We do not have the real estate to put all our students in private rooms. You are more than welcome to come and see our space. We work to try and give and get exams out as fast as possible.

I am committed to building our electronic database. We work with faculty to find alternatives to accommodation. I am getting input from members of the Academic Senate Exec regarding the audio issue.

Lily House-Peters: For classes that have field trips, are there resources to help students and to bring support? Resources around that type of field studies class.

MN: One of the limitations we have is that we are not able to pay for personal assistance, for example, someone feeding, dressing the disabled student. In some cases, the field work site may pose a danger to students. We could see if we can have someone versed in the area of study of the class who could join you on the field trip.

5) a. i. Election of four tenured faculty members for the Associate Dean Search Committee and of one tenured faculty for the Dean's Review Committee

Nominations for the Associate Dean Search Committee:

Ann Johnson, Associate Professor from Communication Studies

Isabella Lanza, Associate Professor from Human Development

Linna Li, Associate Professor from Geography

Gwen Shaffer, Associate Professor from Journalism

Ana Sandoval, Professor from CHLS

Nominations for the Dean's Review Committee:

Antonia Garcia-Orozco, Associate Professor, CHLS

Shira Tarrant, Professor, WGSS

Paul Laris, Professor and Chair, Geography

Wayne Wright, Professor, Philosophy

Ana Sandoval, Professor, CHLS

Yuping Mao: [Introduced Michael Eisenstadt, new Elections Committee member.] We need to have two elections at the meeting today: one for the Associate Dean Search Committee and another one for the Dean's Review Committee.

Motion: Motion to have the two elections at the meeting today, since both committees need to be voted by the Faculty Council. We would do the elections by simple majority vote instead of the single transferrable vote ballot.

BLM: There has been discussion that this body may want to move away from the single transferrable vote. There is the possibility of changing that on the constitution.

CW: Big Pulse has good things too. Is there any problem using Big Pulse?

YM: We prepared the ballot to have the elections at the meeting today.

CW: Considering the significance of the election for the Associate Dean Search Committee, perhaps it should be done on Big Pulse to allow Faculty Council members who are not present today to vote.

Gabriel Estrada: They could have come to the meeting. This happens frequently. People have to show up if they think the elections are important, it is their responsibility.

Vote for motion:

2 opposed

No abstentions

[Yuping and Michael distributed ballots and gave instructions: ballots include names and statements. For the Associate Dean Search Committee, circle 4, and for the Dean's Review Committee, circle one. Faculty voted and Yuping and Rene counted the votes.]

5) b. Ethnic Studies campus requirements – Craig Stone report

CS: I am just going to tell you about the CSU Ethnic Studies council. There is a resolution: we need to get a state law passed and take resolution to the Chancellor's office. Some of the dialect is about implementation. There was a conversation about 6 years ago about Ethnic Studies in high schools. Because of that we have something called the Long Beach Ethnic Studies initiative. Students in high school take college-level courses. There are a lot of students taking those courses. That is one place where students meet Ethnic Studies requirements. There has to be

expertise and engagement in collaboration. The people who determine what are Ethnic Studies courses have to be people on Ethnic Studies.

There is a distinction at CSULB, the Chancellor's Office has had a moratorium to stop the destructive treatment of Ethnic Studies. There was a MOU. There were discussions about Ethnic Studies without ever talking with Ethnic Studies faculty (for example, 3 white men making decisions without consulting faculty from Native American Studies).

Ethnic Studies is the most popular Human Diversity course. We cannot offer inauthentic courses. We need to have folks in education and in Ethnic Studies collaborating on this discussion. Another law is coming up. We have to teach people to teach these classes.

BLM: There is a law right now on the floor, it was not voted on yesterday, it was moved for tomorrow. If it passes, it will determine some of the decisions on this campus regarding GR. That is why we have slowed down making these decisions. If it gets voted in, we need to discuss what to do.

CS: If you look at Economy, History, Communication Studies, there are all these Title V. Right now, we have all these legislators advocating for this. CLA can benefit from this state law. There is a lot of reaction against that, there is an "either or" attitude. We need to conceptualize what we want to do at the university.

AK: From what I understand, this law will not be mandating that the 4 units are taught in the departments. Ex: engineering diversity.

CS: Engineering is one of our biggest supporters, we are working on creating a course together. Ethnic Studies departments often find themselves working with depts like Criminology, for example. I met with Maulana and discussed this. In American Indian studies we are interested on collaborating with everybody. There are a lot of courses on the books. If it is not an authentic course, there is no value for student success. That is why we have not participated in conversations with the Senate.

Anand Commissioning: Student governance has been discussing this, I have heard it has gotten contentious.

CS: They are framing things in a particular way. It is a slippery slope to legislate. There has been a misrepresentation of the nature of what the resolution is. Faculty (white men) made decisions. When things like this come up whoever is in power tries to maintaining their agenda. Native American studies we had four T faculty, come June we will have one. Look at what happened to the MA in Asian and Asian American Studies. We need to have people who are legitimately in Ethnic Studies. CLA and Education have a lot to gain. Keith, how many faculty are in Africana Studies?

Keith Claybrook: We have 4 T/TT faculty.

BLM: If the bill is voted on the affirmative it will have an impact.

Results of the Elections:

Members elected for the Associate Dean Search Committee:

Gwen Shaffer, Anna Sandoval, Isabella Lanza, and Ann Johnson

Three-way tie on the election for the Dean's Review Committee: Antonia Garcia-Orozco, Paul Laris, and Anna Sandoval.

*Anna had expressed she only wanted to be on one of the committees, so the election to break the tie will be between Antonia and Paul. Faculty Council members who attended the meeting will receive an electronic ballot to vote for one of these candidates.

Adjournment: 5:03PM

**Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by
Jeannette Acevedo Rivera, Faculty Council secretary.**

These minutes are not official until approved.