

**Faculty Council Meeting (via Zoom)**  
**Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**  
**3:30PM-5:00PM**  
**AS-384**

**Number of members present: 28**

**1) Call to Order: 3:34PM**

**2) Approval of Agenda: All in favor**

**3) Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2020 meeting: All in favor**

**4) Reports:**

a. CLA Dean's Report

*Dean Wallace:* Thank you for your service on Faculty Council and for being here.

There are nine topics I want to talk about:

1) Current searches: Unlike other campuses, we have not had any of our searches cancelled, we are not losing any searches.

2) Associate Dean search: We are being allowed to continue our Associate Dean search. We have semi-finalists, and will have virtual finalists visits this semester.

3) Commencement: The university is trying to find a venue to celebrate Commencement in late fall semester, but it has been hard because most places are not taking reservations. We will most likely have a virtual celebration. Within the next week we should have more information about this. We are encouraging departments to have symbolic, virtual celebrations with their students.

4) Budget: The picture for next year is more unclear than it usually is. The real revised budget may come out in August or September. California and the CSU system are better positioned than other states and institutions. The university is planning for a 5% cut this year. These are not good news, but not terrible either, we are not in the same situation as other institutions (e.g. Arizona State). The President said that delivering instruction is our number one priority in the fall. The goal is having a regular teaching schedule.

Teaching will have to be the number one priority for the College as well. We are trying to move forward unspent funds this year and trying to approve unassigned RSCAs that were not funded. Travel was unclear, it is possible that the Chancellor's Office will continue to ban unessential travel.

5) Tenure-line searches for next year: Our president and Provost have committed to some, we asked for 25 searches and got 8. Those will be contingent to budget. The Provost is trying to move forward.

6) Screening for employees: I just resent a message about screening before coming to campus. HR put together a simple process, a pre-screening form employees can find on their Single sign-on, under “COVID-19.” We need this to be able to do tracking of cases.

7) SPOT evaluations: Emails went out to students yesterday giving them links to SPOT evaluations. We are required to do SPOTS, but they will not be used for evaluations.

8) Tenure clocks: Tenure-earning faculty members already received an email about the possibility of extending their tenure clock.

9) Fall semester: What will happen in fall? We just had a Chairs meeting. Deans have been advocating so a decision is made ASAP. We are hoping to have guidance within the next week and are starting to explore several options. Face-to-face instruction is highly unlikely. What if all our large lectures are virtual? What would priority be for face-to-face? Deans have advocated for training for instructors. The University administration and deans are all working together to support faculty success in the fall.

*Adam Kahn*: Yesterday Jeff Cook tweeted that there will be in-person classes in the fall, this was then published on the *Daily 49er*. Students will ask about this. What will happen to RSCA in the case of IRB and the inability to complete a project that involves human subjects because of social distancing?

*DW*: If you have assigned time, I would find a way to use it in the best possible way that you can.

Faculty Council may want to evaluate this in the fall: how will folks using RSCA in other ways will be evaluated in RTP.

*Dmitrii Sidorov*: [*Question about international travel and sabbaticals*]

*DW*: As of now sabbaticals will not disappear. Regarding international travel, we have no idea whether the Chancellor’s Office will approve international travel. The same goes for domestic travel. Some folks are already asking if they can put off their travel plans.

*Barbara LeMaster*: Should faculty should take sabbaticals they have approved?

*DW*: Yes, anything I can use next year I would use; I would not defer anything.

*Kevin Johnson*: The University Resources Council met yesterday. Discussion about the university funding model, half of it is enrollment and the other half is state budget. One of the things that is optimistic in terms of enrollment is that we have a lot of people from the urban LA area who are opting to stay home, and CSULB is a good option for them. The enrollment portion is not endangered. State side, we do not know how the reduction will be. There is a proposal to

create a plan for up to a 10% reduction. I am wondering if the College has planned for that. We would not want to be unprepared if that happens.

*DW:* The Provost did not ask the deans to do any modeling, he is optimistic about what is going to happen going into fall. He is moving forward on the assumption that we will be able to manage cuts. There is not going to be any new information before fall.

Again, thank you for supporting our students.

### *b. FC Chair's Report*

*BLM:* We are looking to discuss issues related to CV-19 today, issues that departments are facing. Also, regarding the Associate Dean search, there are only 3 candidates on the list, we will have interviews, then campus visits. There will be an open forum with candidates and an informal gathering to share with candidates beyond the interview. Everyone will be invited. We will have either 2 or 3 candidates.

Regarding budget, we would like to have more information instead of just hearing about things that have been decided, we want to know about topics that are discussed at higher levels.

The deans are having weekly meetings with the Chairs now. I will send you notices about what I learn at those meetings. There will be alternatives for people to learn teaching methods and teaching online. Trainings (including Quality Matters) will be offered to faculty in the summer. The suggestion is that faculty will be more prepared in case we have to teach online in the fall. This will be useful for lecturers, as they will be more qualified.

We need folks for our Elections Committee. We will lose our 2 highly functioning members in the fall due to sabbaticals.

### c. Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

#### i. EPCC

*Nancy Martin:* EPCC has been reviewing new classes and programs. This week we are looking at an MA on Social Transformation.

#### ii. Budget

*BLM:* Whatever money we had left we earmarked it. We are not allowed to spend any money given the situation and the insecurity about what our budget will look next year.

The College has money that was not used for travel events, we asked if they could give it to us, they said no. Cuts expected between 5% and 10%.

If faculty needs something indispensable to teach, they can buy it, but otherwise the College is saying no to extra expenses.

### iii. Graduate Council

*Cory Wright:* Deb and I received 40 theses, we read them all, each one of them had about 90 pages. We are looking for a way to make that process easier and faster.

Three important issues of data subcommittee: Graduate advisor compensation, assigned time for thesis supervision, and TAs' allocation

We need to get data sorted out, before we look for inequities.

We put an extension to thesis deadline until May 8<sup>th</sup>; as long as they are on track for graduation, they do not have to enroll in GS-700. There were a couple different interpretations of this. They have to be on track to file for summer graduation.

### iv. Committee for Pedagogy and Inclusive Excellence

*Justin Gomer:* All of our work is on hold until there is a plan for us to be on campus. Perhaps in the future we can plan for alternative modes of delivering our workshops, but for now it is paused.

## **5) Old Business**

a. Elections: We are going to continue a practice established by Misty: to have elections for Faculty Council Exec Committee at the end of the spring instead of the beginning of fall. All 5 members of the Exec Committee have nominated themselves.

*Ilan Mitchell-Smith:* I do not want to leave position of Vice-Chair empty, but if anyone else wants to nominate themselves, please do it.

*Yuping Mao, from the Elections Committee, runs the election for FC Exec Committee.*

### 1. Vote for chair

*BLM:* I welcome being able to serve you again. I have an interest in strengthening the communication between the Dean's office and the FC, being in touch with sub-committees, and working on getting elections for committee cycles. We are out of touch with who is on what committee. Sometimes people get on committees and they do not know what to do.

Vote: 28 FC members in favor

*YM:* Are there nominations for Vice-Chair?

*Ilan accepts nomination.*

Vote: 28 FC members in favor

*YM*: Are there nominations for Secretary?

*BLM nominates Jeannette, she accepts*

Vote: 28 FC members in favor

*YM*: Are there nominations for Members-at-large?

*Nominations: Justin Gomer and Stacy Macías*

Stacy Macías: I can do it for the fall, but I have a teaching conflict in the spring semester.

Vote for Stacy: 28 FC members in favor

Vote for Justin: 28 FC members in favor

*BLM*: We need nominations for the Elections Committee. Currently, we have one person who is not on FC, we would like to have a second and a third members.

There are no nominations now, please talk to friends and send nominations to me and Jeannette.

We will go into Breakout rooms now and work on two topics:

1) COVID-19: What are your department's issues should we remain teaching online in fall, and or begin online and move to face-to-face instruction.

2) CLA Strategic Priorities document revision – What do you see as our College's priorities, particularly when it comes to allocation of resources? If the CLA faculty were to give counsel to the Dean on setting allocation priorities, what would our counsel be? We will have break-out groups to provide their list of allocation priorities in our faculty counsel to the CLA Dean and Dean's office. Current Strategic Priority document?:

<http://www.cla.csulb.edu/facultycouncil/cla-strategic-plan/>

There will be an Exec member in each group taking notes on a shared Google document that we will then edit and send to the Dean's office.

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

**These minutes are not official until approved.**