**CLAS Council Meeting**

**February 13, 2020**

**9 AM to 10:30 AM**

**Attending:** Darryl Mehring, Marjorie Levine-Clark, Sarah Tyson, Maria Andrea Velazquez, Anna Warrener, Paul Espinoza, Pam Jansma, Michael Abetya, Sasha Breger Bush, Gary Olson, Gabriel Finklestein, Mia Fischer, Masoud Asadi-Zeydabadi

**Recording:** Karen Fennell

**Approval of Minutes**: December Minutes approved

**Multiple Means of Teaching Evaluation**: Sarah Tyson

* Faculty and course evaluations are publicly available. The issue here is looking at the scores and not making the comments public and considering whether the FCQs aren’t appropriately reflecting the quality of the teaching. The view is that only the qualitative scores should be made publicly available. There is research that shows there is bias in the FCQs and how the data are presented.
* A lot of students use other websites like Rate my Professor and they don’t understand the importance of FCQs unless it is explicitly explained to them how their ratings impact faculty.
* CLAS Council is meeting to discuss this issue of whether or not to use the student comments in FCQs and what bias there may be in the data.
* There are frustrations about students not filling out the online evaluations. Some faculty give extra credit and allow the students to do the evaluations in class to enhance the response rate.
* For the moment, it sounds like we should proceed with Kathleen Bollard’s plan that only the quantitative data be published, not qualitative data because of concerns about bias in the comment from student.
* Doing student evaluations mid-semester can be helpful and motivate the students a little more and also impact end of semester FCQs. Sarah will share her list of mid-semester questions she presents to students with this group.
* The policy as written says the evaluations of the instructor have to include FCQs or other campus approved forms of evaluation.
* It might be helpful for departments to communicate with students about the importance of FCQs, how they are used and their importance in assessing the faculty.

**Dean’s Updates**: Pam Jansma

*Budget Shortfall*:

* This is the 3rd year of the new budget model. We will be discussing the amount of subvention from CLAS to other schools and colleges and we hope that amount will decrease.

*Strategic Plan:*

* It is time for a new strategic plan because what is available on our website is out of date.
* The draft has been written including the mission and vision statement, plus the values statement and input can still, be provided. Sarah Tyson has the draft and can distribute it to the CLAS Council. Once the Council has reviewed it, the plan can go out to the departments.
* The idea is to divide up the parts of the strategic plan for the Council to review.

*First Year Advising*:

* We lose a lot of students between first and second year. There’s a big push to centralize all advising under the Center for Advising and Exploration. CLAS is hiring two new advisors to focus on first year students.
* Our University retention rates are only 68-72% and CLAS is the lowest. However, this includes all the pre- and undeclared students and this brought down our percentages. We hope our rates will improve as all the pre- students have now been moved into their specific school or college.
* We have been told that 70-80% of new students change their majors, but this figure seems to be very high.
* The number of undeclared students has increased, in part because undeclared major option is now one of the first items listed on the webpage for students to choose from. We will have to wait and see what the final impact is among our numbers of majors.

*ICB Updates:*

* China Agricultural University (CAU) has approved offering all courses online this semester due to coronavirus concerns.
* The start of classes has been delayed.
* All faculty outside of Beijing have been told not to return to ICB
* Some CU faculty have come back to the USA if it was possible to travel.
* The Communication and Ethnic Studies departments are hosting a session on “Inoculating Against Racism” on protecting our Chinese students from bias.

**UCDALI Report and Follow Up**: Sarah Tyson

* UCDALI has finished their self-study. The CLAS Council can invite Vivian Shyu to come to a future meeting to discuss it.
* Some of the items they are looking at include:
* eco-passes for instructors
* lockers for instructors to secure their belongings while they are teaching

**New Business**: Sarah Tyson

*Faculty Elections*

* There has been discussion about moving faculty elections to the CLAS Council. Bylaws do allow moving the elections to new process in the Dean’s office
* there is been discussion about having the slate of nominations be public so that people can see who has been nominated before the elections ballot has been posted.
* It should be noted that people can be nominated for more than one committee.
* Previously, people would email in their nominations and there would be a list kept nobody saw the actual nominations until they were posted on the elections ballot.
* We could send out a document with a list of names and people can see what the nominations are and what committees they want to serve on.
* The CLAS Council is in favor of total transparency so that faculty can see who is nominated for which committees and have an open document that all can view. We need to create a document that people can add to, but not remove info from.
* This year will be a test to see how faculty respond to the new process. If we cannot figure out a clear process for this year, we will defer making any changes to the next year.
* The Council voted on whether or not to have open nominations, where people can self-nominate and the process is transparent. This vote passed unanimously.