**CLAS Faculty Council Agenda**

**May 13, 2021**

**Meeting via ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**Participating**:

Michael Abeyta, Anna Warrener, Masoud Asadi-Zeydabadi, Jennifer Boylan, Sasha Breger Bush, Michelle Comstock, Benjamin Crawford, Candan Duran-Aydintug, Rachel Harding, , Pam Jansma, Gabriel Finkelstein, Mia Fischer, Nick Fisk, Marjorie Levine-Clark, Darryl Mehring, Annika Mosier, Florian Pfender, Sarah Tyson, Andrea Velasquez, Anna Warrener, Margaret Woodhull

**Guests**: Mary Lovit, Sandra Quinn, Kim Regier

**Recording**: Karen Fennell

**Welcome and Introductions:** Sarah Tyson

**Minutes from April**: Approved with no changes.

**Announcements**: Sarah Tyson

*Mental Health Aid Training*:

* Recommended as a useful training option and we could put this as a resource in the Dan’s Notes.
* Link to the training: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/wellness/matters/educational-trainings/mental-health-first-aid>

**Dean’s Updates**: Pam Jansma

*Check in Stations on Campus:*

* By June 1 there will be no more check-in stations for the campus. We don’t know if there will be daily attestations required anymore.
* Most Colorado counties are going to more normal in-person status as of this Sunday 5/16.
* We assume mask and social distancing mandates will be relaxed in the future.
* Vaccinations ae being offered this weekend at the 5th Street garage on campus to populations aged 15 years old if they have a parent with them.

*Vaccination Requirement:*

* CCD and MSU are not requiring vaccinations right now, but they are requiring a larger on campus presence earlier than CU Denver is.
* There’s a big push to get vaccines out into communities that need them, including buses to go into outlying areas with the J&J vaccine and to reach out to our students also.
* There was a question about how are we going to know if people and students are vaccinated. We can’t ask people if they are vaccinated or not. However, we can get the records from the state of Colorado as to who has been vaccinated here. Out of state students will likely have to show their proof of vaccination cards.
* It seems confusing that we have the vaccination requirement but we have no real mechanism to check and verify that people are actually vaccinated. We don’t want to put any person or group in the role of having to check vaccination status. We don’t want staff and faculty to feel burdened by the vaccination requirement either. We can at least cross-check people in the state data base. The Dean will take this issue to the Lynx Together committee about the vaccination verification situation.
* We are still developing the vaccination exemption request process and it will probably mimic what the process already looks like for requesting vaccination exemptions for Colorado.
* There was a question about how will out of state students know what they should do regarding vaccinations, what information are they being provided and what documentation they need to show. It’s likely new students are being informed but the vaccination requirements, processes and options as part of the admissions and registration processes.
* As of now here is no registration hold for getting the COVID vaccine.
* We have to follow the Denver public health guidelines, which currently requires masks indoors. This may be different by August.
* The Lynx Together team is doing lot of communication to the campus through campus Town Hall events and other campus outreach stories. It’s hard to combat misinformation though.

*Soft Return to Campus:*

* No one is being forced to come back to campus in June and July, but we will have more students and more classes in person on campus in the fall. So it is a good idea to practice getting faculty and staff back to campus over the summer.
* Academic Advising will be mostly remote over the summer.
* The plan is for returning 1-2 days a week in June and 2-3 days a week in July to help people start transitioning back to campus in a flexible way. We will be adjusting how we function. We want to work something out so we can have staff present during the hours when we have the most traffic. The idea is to find a balance between in person and remote working and how best to manage this. The expectation for most staff probably is that they are not going to be in the office 5 days a week going forward.

*RTD*:

* Todd Haggerty is still working with RTD to negotiate about EcoPasses for the campus. More info should be forthcoming at the next Town Hall meeting.
* There will be more information about parking on campus for this summer and fall as well.

*Budget:*

CLAS budget looks better for next year. We got some coverage for our structural deficits and an adjustment in our subvention. Professional development funds will be unfrozen for July 1.

*President Kennedy:*Will be stepping down as the CU System President.

*Enrollment Updates:*

* CU Denver is up 7% in resident first-year deposits.
* Graduate student enrollment is are up, but we are 4% down in undergraduate numbers.
* CLAS enrollment is down in continuing students. This is a trend we expect we will be seeing for the next few years.
* The new residence hall is at 73% capacity and they want more living-learning communities for the future. It does take time to plan and initiate more of these communities.
* There was a suggestion for having a Spanish Language house or something tied to outdoor recreation.

*HSI Status:* We qualify as an HSI and can move forward for applying for HSI funding even though we are not officially on the new HSI list yet.

**Communicative Skills Learning Outcomes and Rubrics (LOR):** Michelle Comstock, Mary Lovit, and Sandra Quinn

* We need these rubrics because the EPCC needs more precise language and an assessment tool because this category isn’t in the core.
* The language for approving transfer courses is difficult to interpret.
* Cross-listed courses and what area requirements those cross-listed courses should be applied to are now clarified by this new document.
* There was discussion about what is the goal of the communication skills requirement and what courses qualify for inclusion. The idea behind it is that these skills are practical and transferable between disciplines.
* There was a suggestion to include a data literacy requirement as well since our students more often now have to determine what is valid data as part of their studies and researches. Our Math for the Liberal Arts class for non-math majors tries to cover some of these data analysis components, but it would be good to make the data literacy piece more explicit.
* We do have to be careful with our own requirements for what we count for communicative skills because it acts as a signal to the other schools and colleges as to what is acceptable in the core.

The four areas the Council was asked to vote on were:

1. Do you approve of the new Communicative Skills Learning Outcomes and Rubrics?*Voting results*: Unanimously approved.
2. Should there be a limit on the number of courses EPCC approves for each department inthis area (there isn't a limit on any of the other areas)?*Voting results:* Unanimously against there being a limit.
3. Should we use the LORs to inform the evaluation of those transfer courses that are notdirectly equivalent to the listed courses?*Voting results*: Unanimously approved.
4. Should we use the LORs to determine which CLAS graduation areas should apply to cross-listed courses?

*Voting results*: Unanimously approved.

**New Registrar Advisory Committee Proposal**: Kim Regier, Mary Lovit, and Sandra Quinn

* This new committee was created because there seemed to be a lack of communication between CLAS and the Registrar’s office.
* We don’t hear about important changes before they happen or have the opportunity to give them feedback before changes are made and consider what the impact is on our students.
* The informal mechanisms we have attempted in the past haven’t been effective so we are trying a more formal route for communication with them.
* We are hoping this committee can initially meet once a month to address issues with the Registrar.
* Motion to approve formation of this new committee was unanimously approved.