

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: Monday, October 16, 2017

Attending: Jaran Shin, Lorna Rivera, Maria Cisterna Gold, Joseph Brown, Tahirah Abdullah, Sylvia Mignon, Christopher Shade, Shannon McHugh, Sarah Hamblin, Sari Edelstein, Mary Oleskiewicz, Heidi Gengenbach, Jean-Philippe Belleau, Shaman Hatley, Jason Van Ehrenkrook, Danielle Bromwich, Yun Kim, Ursula Tafe, Julie Zhu, Maria Brinkner

1. Approval of the Agenda

Unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

Unanimously approved.

3. Dean's Report

Barry Mills' decision to step down and let the Chancellor search begin came as a surprise, but we should take him at his word that this is the reason. There is no new budget news, but the Dean hopes to have some the end of the week, and feels no less optimistic about the operating budget than he was last month. However, the hiring issue is not looking great; the Provost will make these decisions soon, but CLA will likely get few hires approved. The Dean continues to negotiate from the position that current vacancies will not be frozen into place as the new normal for CLA.

There is some good news. All "sides of the house," including Academic Affairs and A&F, are working together, and those in charge agree that Deans should have control over their broader budgets, including vacancy savings.

Senator comments that Mills' announcement was "jarring and sudden," and asks whether any faculty will be on Chancellor search committee. So far, Senator has only heard about non-UMB committee members, except for the Faculty Council Chair. In previous Chancellor searches, there were at least 5-6 faculty on the committee. The Dean is nervous about political dynamics external to UMB potentially influencing the search, and he will ask Barry Mills about this in their meeting tomorrow. He will also ask whether Mills' departure has to do with frustration over the state's insistence that UMB pay for the Science building's demolition; if so, he approves of Mills putting his foot down on this issues, since UMB cannot absorb these costs on top of other ongoing financial pressures. Even if Mills' decision is unrelated to this capital issue, it will continue to affect UMB's operating budget moving forward.

Senator reports that an article on UMB's website says there are "13 to 14" people on the Chancellor search committee, and "UMass Boston faculty, students, staff and alumni" will be represented.

4. Moderator's Report

Welcome and introduction of new Executive Committee member.

5. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following New Courses:

ANTH 256— Unanimously approved.

ENG 123, 124, 242, 248, 249, 450—Senator moves to vote as block, unanimously approved. Block is unanimously approved.

Greek 311—Unanimously approved.

HIST343, 350—Senator moves to vote as block, unanimously approved. Block is unanimously approved.

Latin 321—Unanimously approved.

MDNLNG330—Unanimously approved.

PHIL379—Unanimously approved.

POLSCI333—Executive Committee member raised question about possible redundancy with History Department course on terrorism. Unanimously approved.

RELSTY222L—Unanimously approved.

THART109—Unanimously approved.

6. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following Course Changes:

Asian/Relsty357L—Proposed change includes adding Classics/Religious Studies as 3rd cross-listing. Motion to approve with stipulation to get signature needed from WGS. — Unanimously approved.

ART321, 370, 395, 215 (all cross-listed w/CINE)—Senator moves to vote as block, unanimously approved. Block is unanimously approved.

HIST173—Unanimously approved.

7. Motions from the Majors, Honors and Special Programs Committee to approve: New Minor in Sexuality Studies

Senator explains that this cross-department initiative emerges from an ad hoc faculty group working on sexuality studies since 1995. WGS has changed its name to include “Sexuality” in order to reflect high student interest in this field. Executive Committee expressed concern that there is only one required Capstone course, creating the risk that in that faculty member’s absence students would be unable to complete the minor on schedule; and suggested that because of the Interim Chancellor’s statement that “no new programming will be approved” in the near future, it might be a good idea to delay submission (e.g. in case the minor is vetoed and thus prevented from resubmitting). Senators are encouraged to let WGSS know if there are other courses that could be added to the minor. After discussion, new minor is unanimously approved.

Two Senators ask whether course proposals they submitted near or after the October 15 deadline will be reviewed soon. Moderator explains calendar for review process.

8. Discussion of Statement of CLA values/mission for website

Moderator thanks the Ad Hoc Committee who worked on the draft statement, noting that the Dean has already put our interim statement on the CLA website. The committee produced two versions of the statement. Executive Committee member reports that email vote results strongly favored the first (shorter) version, but there is still some debate about

the language to use for religious dimension of the statement. Three options are proposed for resolving this issue. Senator expresses concern about the non-equivalence of “anti-Semitism” with “religious discrimination,” leading to addition of fourth option.

Motion to vote openly approved, with one abstention. Voting results (with 1 abstention):

Option 1: leave the list as is, including all stated forms of discrimination—15 yes

Option 2: remove “Islamophobia” only—1 yes

Option 3: remove “Islamophobia” and “anti-Semitism,” and subsume others as “all forms of discrimination”—0 yes

Option 4: replace statement with “racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of religious discrimination”—2 yes

9. Nicholas Sweeton, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Housing & Residential Life

Since taking the position in August he has heard that faculty do not feel sufficiently informed about the new dorms, so he wanted to share an update with the Faculty Senate and respond to any questions or concerns.

The dorms will house 1,077 beds in a mix of single, double, and 4-person rooms; cost per student will range from \$9,648 to \$12,213 per year. There will be 3 live-in MA-level community directors, 31 RAs, an apartment for a live-in faculty member, tutoring spaces, technology-equipped study rooms, “Living & Learning Communities” (LLC) for students sharing an academic major or other interests. A committee is currently working on how academic and student life will intersect in the dorms. There will be some financial aid for incoming freshmen.

Senator expressed concern about problems of substance abuse, citing the student who died last year and asking what security and safety measures would be in place. The Director is aware of and working on this issue; he is worried, for instance, about the old pump house next to the dorm as a potential site of such activity.

Senator asks about plans for addressing students’ mental health needs, and whether there will be any wellness activities in the dorm (e.g. Psychology Department’s UMB Your Best initiative). The Director notes that there will be an office through which such resources will be rotated, including a counsellor at especially stressful times of the academic year.

Senator asks whether there are funds set aside for these programs as use of them grows. The Director says that UMB supports “24/7 funding” for mental health support and similar issues, but that funds may be shaved given the current fiscal climate.

Senator asks about Public Safety presence in the dorms. The Director explains that the UMB Police Department received additional funding to provide more officers and dispatchers in order to ensure 24/7 campus coverage. There will also be security staff on site at the dorms.

Senator asks whether there will be any space allotted for homeless students or students aging out of foster care. The Director notes that finances and facility management are under the control of the private sector partner, so there is limited on flexibility here. Senator suggests looking to Bridgewater State for a model. The dorms are a freshmen priority, and estimates are that roughly half of the next freshmen class will live in the dorms, with the remaining spaces occupied by students in other years. Access will be first come first served, based on the deposit date.

Senator asks about impact of the dorms' cost on freshman classes moving forward. The Director acknowledges that there may be impact, as some students are saying now that they are applying to UMB only because of the new dorms.

Senator asks about gender ordering in residential spaces. There will be single-gender areas set aside for those who prefer this option; otherwise the rooms will be co-ed. Bathrooms will have an open space with sinks for general use, plus rooms with shower and toilet for single use. They are taking gender fluidity into account and being careful with signage. Mixed gender rooms are also an option. There will also be staff training for sexual assault issues.