

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10th | 2:30-4:00pm | I01-1400 in ISC + Zoom

<https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/92809322691?pwd=WaYPZ6NCToNqYFzH6sRyTkPFajkOaj.1&from=addon>

1. Approval of September October minutes (5 min)
 - a. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Dean's report (30 min)
 - a. Faculty hiring: 3-year plan, but ever since, there have been cuts from the federal government and some budget questions. We're now back on a one-year plan, so we only got approvals for this year for searches that we are running, 8 searches. Will know more in the Spring.
 - i. Committed to renewing/filling positions of non-tenure track faculty who are retiring
 - b. R1 Status: We are and have already been R1
 - i. Those on the tenure track: have these conversations with your department
Crafting the letters in terms of soliciting, um, in terms of soliciting external reviewer letters as the CPC, the Dean, and the Provost rely on those letters. Highlight high access and level of research support; research university with a teaching soul
 - o Move toward increased levels of administrative support; lots of moving parts but that is the goal.
 - c. Chairs Meeting Discussion
 - i. Student Success
 - o Block advising has been successful
 - o Career pathways, internships- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, recent Pre Law initiative with faculty from 3 different departments, sociology, philosophy, and political science for all majors
 - o Support for undeclared majors
 - a. 800 CLA majors, almost 200 undeclared
 - ii. Website Communication
 - o What needs improvement, user-friendly, correct information, where information requests go (right now they go to admissions but they should go to departments), photographs, etc.
 - iii. CLA Communication
 - o Newsletter, publicize events, send Lauren Brackett and Associate Dean Margaret Hart announcements from your department to be displayed and publicized
 - iv. Faculty development and retention
 - o Meetings with junior faculty
 - o Work with Professor Isabel Gomez on mentoring
 - o Junior Faculty colloquium (expanded to all CLA faculty)

- CLA Research Committee (CLARC)-gives out prizes and awards, expand it
- Graduate student allocations

Senator: Funds for course packets to address tech distractions in class?

- Dean Prasad: Use library, better option than bookstore, copy dean of libraries, Stephanie Walker, Penelope Assistant dean; Potential for a budget through the dean's office, printing in Quinn

Senator: New program assessment through the Office of Institutional Research, any guidance?

- Dean Prasad: Christopher Deza is working with 3-4 departments to develop program learning outcomes. Also not fully clear on the stipulations; usually happens with AQUAD; all programs across the university; 7 yr period

Senator: We were told we have to do some assessment each semester and create a report that would be assessed by the university assessment council

- Dean Prasad: Unsure about that will get more information

Senator: We would like more clarity

3. Moderator's report (10 min)

- a. No response from Joe Berger on the FC council motion
- b. Remember to submit questions in advance of the Beacon Budget Update by Thursday 13th
- c. Check with your departments about interest in course packets

4. Course approvals (10 min)

- a. New courses:
 - i. AFRSTY - 224L - Aesthetics & Black Womanhood: Contemporary Transatlantic Women's Novels
 - ii. WGS - 222 - Queer Asia(n)
 - iii. WGS - 250 - Global LGBTQ+ Activism
 - 222 and 250 already approved

All courses approved as a block

- b. Substantial change:
 - i. SOCIOL - 355L - Gender, Development, & Globalization
 - ii. AFRSTY - 270L - The Black Image on Stage and Screen
 - iii. AFRSTY - 308L - Africana Feminisms in the Black Diaspora
 - iv. MUSIC - 300 - Masterpieces of Western Music for Music Minors
 - v. POLSCI 207- Race, Ethnicity and Politics
 - vi. PSYCH - 360 - Behavioral Neuroscience
 - vii. SOCIOL 355- Gender, Development, and Globalization
 - viii. WGS 222- Queer Asia(n)
 - ix. WGS 250- Global LGBTQ+ Activism

Changes approved as a block

- c. Grad program change
 - i. Applied Economics MA
 - Reorganizing structure in way that makes sense for their students

5. New business (20 min)

- a. Discussion and resource sharing on coping with AI in the liberal arts classroom

- i. Senator: Against AI, put together by Anna Kornblue, great resource; more in-class writing
- ii. Senator: A charter at the beginning of the semester through a shared google doc, set rules for use together
- iii. Senator: Struggling to find a core response in our department, diverse range of views; willing to share an AI syllabus made by a colleague
- iv. Senator: Pen and paper
- v. Senator: Short writing assignments
- vi. Senator: Do not want to reproduce old writing/testing traumas
- vii. Senator: Has been using AI since 2022; has been successful in language course comparing product outcomes; highlight the transactional nature of using AI and education
- viii. Senator: reflections on using AI
- ix. Senator: Use of AI a symptom of a larger malady, every space should be talking about this; can be addressed though reduced class sizes for more meaningful dialogue
- x. Start with a critique of AI through labor, acknowledge the conditions of our lives that might cause people to cheat
- xi. Senator: we discuss and show the limits of AI; there is not imperfect of the imperative in Portuguese but Chat GPT will try and write in it
- xii. Senator: we have used analytical reflection papers along with and about speaker events that go beyond description
 - o A response to faculty survey: Where does this motion now stand?
 - a. CSM was going to undertake the labor and then heard FC's motion so it is unclear who is moving forward with the work of conducting the survey; will check in on it
- xiii. Senator: AI not a choice anymore, it is an integral part of education now; the question is how do we address this without compromising academic integrity
- xiv. Senator: more arts based assignments with trips to museums and writing about their experience; use raw materials
- b. Report back on major issues/topics of discussion in your department
 - i. Senator: Circle back to assessment; there was a helpful one page document but seemed like a strong mandate on what we have to do, types of research questions to have; one semester or continuous? Lack of compensation for the work load
 - ii. Senator: in the middle of the AQUAD; issue of reviewing process-faculty from other campuses being included as a reviewers, we were told they cannot be reviewers
 - o Senator: I have been on AQUADS where the external reviewer was from UMass Amherst; not unprecedented
 - iii. Senator: GA allocations/cuts? Teaching fellows as well
 - o Senator: 15% reduction on our end; no clear cut explanation
 - o Senator: discussion on this topic at the BBM meeting with Katherine Keralis-"whatever money they give to the dean it is the dean's authority to allocate GA funding"
 - o Senator: up and down in econ, went from 5-7, to 3, to 2 ½; reason:: finance formula has changed, internal shadow prices; they want students who are going to pay full tuition

- Senator: WGS getting recruitment pressure, event hosting, redesigning hallways
- Senator: we are discussing the loss of majors, how to convert non-majors; will be conducting a survey of majors and reasons they became an English major
- Senator: proposal to put a couch in the hallway
- Senator: revamped the student lounge
- Senator: we now have a majors committee
- Senator: video creation of psych major students
- Senator: would like a primer as someone who is new to the senate about the budget
- Senator: Philosophy clubs is very active; great model
 - a. Senator: They get money through regular club process
- Senator: More space allocations; negotiate more space for students without having to reserve everything
- Senator: I am on the budget committee and I can give an update; BBM update is the 17th; Karen Horn and I are co-chairs
- Senator: I have a template for space proposals

6. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn approved 4:01