CLA Senate Meeting

February 10, 2025

1. Approval of December meeting minutes
   1. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Moderator’s Report
   1. Motions passed at December meeting
      * 1. Ranked dean’s search list (Provost Berger said he would take it into consideration)
        2. Space motion to University space committee (No response)
   2. All faculty meeting
      * 1. Need some support on:
           1. Reviewing a list of all the sticky notes from the all faculty meeting; notes shared in the meetings folder on the OneDrive
           2. Some not in format for recommendations, e.g. not specific/very broad
           3. Moderator had offered to create recommendations, but would prefer input, e.g. make recommendations into a survey for faculty input
           4. Should we send it to all faculty? One Senator suggested narrowing down the list during the meeting before having faculty vote on the recommendations
        2. Implementation plan: how to bring to administration to compel them to respond
           1. Present the report then simultaneously ask for Town Hall for Provost/Chancellor to respond
           2. Is there a senate in other colleges? CSM also ran survey; CEHD? Need to find out if other colleges have a Senate
           3. Would like someone else to schedule the Town Hall; No sooner than a month out- reserve room; One senator volunteered to book room and date but needs someone else to promote it; Wednesdays? In-person meeting for administrators, but hybrid for faculty
           4. Executive Committee will help with format of the Town Hall (CLA only); presentation of report and how do we ask Provost to respond
           5. Senator said NECHE: visit is March 23rd
        3. Sticky note recommendation summary
           1. Can University do this survey for all colleges? Regularly like every 3 years like at other institutions?
           2. Moderator will revise, send to Senate, then all faculty
3. Dean’s Report
   1. GA allocations:
      1. CLA should be okay- college only reduced by 4 GAs but fundamentally we will make everybody whole; everybody should have the same number of GAs as before
      2. Message will come out next week from OGS
   2. What is happening with supporting students, etc?
      1. UMass system decided they’re not making any public announcements; UMB especially vulnerable so saying anything publicly will put a target on our back because of our university mission; you will not receive specific advice from UMB upper administration, only official attorney general info, OGS info
      2. Federal news website- keep checking; more info on what’s a public space vs. private space
      3. LOTS of work going on in the background; meeting with AG, mayor, governor
      4. Reaching out to Shawn Morgan, global affairs- what messages have gone out to the international students and faculty- don’t know yet
   3. Grant funding and research
      1. ORSP: worked overnight during the freeze; drawing down funds and will continue to check every 2 weeks to review all the funds
      2. Searching keywords in all grants; about 45% are “high risk” because of what kind of university we are
      3. Research group/team across campuses has been created to discuss this
      4. All of this has effects for CLA faculty🡪 money that comes from grants funds projects and initiatives across departments; example: NIH indirect costs go into RTFs that help fund humanities start-ups
      5. “We are not moving away from who we are”; CLA is not changing DEI stance
   4. Title IX at the chair’s retreat to talk about the updates to Title IX
   5. Vice chancellor of inclusive excellence and belonging will meet with chairs at the next chairs meeting and will try to get global affairs to come
   6. Continue to do DEI, but don’t call it that; do this without calling it inclusive/different language
4. QUESTIONS FROM SENATORS:
   1. Senator asked about the DOE lock out- don’t know, but capitol council involved
   2. University website:
      1. Dean will bring up issue at the Provost mtg with the Deans
5. Lots of fear among faculty about being targeted
   1. Dean says we are probably okay since we are in MA
   2. Dissemination of information strategies; suggestion: Chairs get good information, so might want to invite chairs to Senate meetings, e.g. someone to come to directly address any issues like the website
   3. Senator asked follow-up about GAs: does the Dean know what’s happening university-wide? How does lack of grants impact RA lines?
      1. Dean had been told which departments to reduce, and they disagree, so they are not saying which departments were reduced; isn’t sure where the four lines went; CLA/MGS: 156 🡪 152
      2. Were told to reduce it from specific departments, but they disagreed
      3. Only quantitative, not qualitative for how the GAship is used; they all have to be used for TAs? If want RAs go get external funding?
      4. Issue of three-year vs yearly: We can be assured for one year, but grad students coming in this year will still have stipends for the next year—3 year funding
   4. CLA dean’s office also get GAships so if there is a lot of enrollments and OGS doesn’t give you a GA, Dean’s office will give additional one
   5. One Senator asks if there is a sense of why we went through this process, is there bigger change coming?
      1. Dean: I don’t know
   6. Senator asked why the GA reallocation happened
      1. Dean says that it was due to inequities seen in places that are not where the inequities actually are
   7. Senator asked about more institutional support for loss of grants because of the pull away from DEI; loss of grants—Trotter Institute, etc. Support for specific departments/programs under attack. Is there a commitment from the university to more robustly fund institutes and gender/ethnic studies departments?
      1. Dean: budget is tight
      2. Dean: Maybe the state will make up for this grant loss? state seems to be on our side
      3. thinks that we could reach out to different departments to increase communication
      4. university had already been targeted about DEI language, so some of our response was already in the pipeline
      5. right now threats are more to funding rather than specific departments
      6. follow-up: will the university have our back?
         1. for now, we will be okay because we are in MA
         2. specific departments being targeted hadn’t occurred to her
      7. Dean: we will for now continue business as usual
   8. One Senator asked: We can’t know what’s going to happen, but can we have proactive/preemptive protections in place for people who are in position due to what programs they’re in or type of research doing?
   9. Senator asked if we will still be an antiracist health-promoting institution?
      1. Dean says YES that will not change.
   10. One Senator relays a climate of “fear and caution” among faculty and staff
       1. need to be careful about the communications—careful about what’s said in email; faculty and staff are afraid
       2. Dean: I understand and am sorry
   11. One Senator notes that the students in their department are frightened, and wonders if students are being contacted
       1. Dean: perhaps people could reach out to Student Affairs, etc, ask about outreach; invite them to a Senate meeting
   12. Are there recommendations for certain assignments?
       1. Dean: No, you should assign what you think is intellectually appropriate for that class
       2. perhaps think of it in terms of learning objectives
       3. “do what you do”
       4. Dean: exercise your academic freedom; don’t comply in advance; don’t react, respond; make sure the students have access to all the resources
6. Course approvals
   1. N/A
7. Maria Brincker/Budget Committee Report
   1. Had sent documents (in folder)
   2. Task was to get access to CLA budget, which is not easy, and made more pressing due to shift to BBM
   3. Beacon Budget Model:
      1. Shadow budget was supposed to have been run for 2 years, but we DO NOT have access to the shadow budget
      2. Dean office doesn’t have it either
      3. Dean saw it only at a meeting with Provost
         1. We have no numbers of the shadow budget
      4. “incredibly disappointing: we have no numbers to give you”
      5. “series of concerns” based on information they do have (a few examples)
      6. What are the motivations for switching to the BBM?
         1. Concerns: their committee is info finding; senate decision making
         2. Beacon Budget model to create levels and have more transparent activity-based model, accountability/transparency supporting holistic student success and research, community service—BUT there is tension between BBM and supporting holistic student success and research support
   4. CLA: academic unit that receives funds and pay for things now instead of university pool that all expenses are taken care of and then money give to departments
   5. Revenue comes into CLA and expenses are going out now: money coming in is tuition and fees; college gets the students’ money- 100% if take CLA classes and major in it, but no transparency, so don’t know if it is actually 100% but not likely; 80% classes, 20% majors; $$$ also from state appropriation and student retention, graduation rate, research “impactful” (only grants and contracts so what about not visible research- not JUST grants, pubs?)—community service has no support for doing this in BBM; email the budget committee about other ways departments and faculty are “research active”- research mentorships
   6. Expenses:
      1. different colleges space; motivated to not use space; more space you use, the more you have to pay
      2. will have to pay for student support- more students you have, more you have to pay
      3. goes against research
      4. BBM not actually helping the things that the mission of the budget was stated to be
   7. Transparency:
      1. BBM framing; not supposed to help with reducing financial burdens. (page 9)
      2. So why are we paying for everything in the BBM?
   8. Seems to say you save money if you don’t hire so many people: TT and staff (page 27 and 29)
8. QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS:
   1. Senator commented that there is supposed to equity across the 3 areas; there is a set of basic assumptions that the model is predicated on: a basic privatization principle
   2. BBM quantitative analysis of research, service, teaching—what is the value on each?
      1. Maria says there is no mention of community service
   3. A Senator asked: how do we define student success?
      1. Why is it measured by retention and graduation rate (6 years)?
   4. Bottomline: Budget is NOT done, so we might be able to slow it down, influence it
      1. Hope to get a meeting with the Provost’s Office
      2. Calculations are going to change, so calling on Senate to make decisions and ask for tasks/ideas for budget committee to do
   5. Sticky notes: Moderator will refine and send to Senate and email to all faculty to vote on
9. New business
   1. None announced
10. Adjourn
    1. Motion to adjourn passes unanimously