

CLA Senate Agenda

Monday, December 8th | 2:30-4:00pm | ZOOM ONLY

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

(minute taker: Kelly)

1. Approval of November minutes (5 min)
 1. Minutes Approved
2. Dean's report (30 min)
 1. Hiring
 1. Several departments are in the process of hiring right now
 2. We will not know regarding hiring for next year until spring
 2. Increasing Communications Efforts
 1. Both within university and outside of university
 1. Example: CLA Newsletter
 2. Any student or faculty member you'd like to spotlight in the newsletter? Please tell your chair
 3. Any announcements you have, please tell the chair
 3. Has been having great meetings with junior faculty
 1. Shared successful CVs of recent tenure cases
 2. Wishlists from them: service opportunities, research engagement
 4. New Awards
 1. Will soon announce service awards for NTTs and Associate Professors
 1. Comes with cash prize, course release
 2. For Associate Professors, meant to award people who have been at that level for a while, need a push to jumpstart research
 5. Look out for Deans Research Fund call, should come out soon
 6. AI and Dean's Office
 1. What they did at the chairs' retreat this year (two invited speakers)
 2. Open to ideas on how to move the conversation on pedagogy and AI
 1. Any interest in college-level forum?
 7. Format of Dean's Report
 1. Could do something different going forward
 2. Perhaps could make announcements and then have a topic chosen for each Senate meeting
 8. QUESTIONS FOR DEAN
 1. One senator asks about NTTs doing honors thesis mentorship—could there be any compensation?
 1. Compensation usually gets rejected, but we could think about this as either building up of service or building up of CLR's
 2. Suggests approaching departmental chair about how SLs can be incorporated into MOUs for theses, etc.
 1. But should be different from TT faculty
 2. Format:

1. we could tweak if Dean would pre-send some of her points
 2. One senator suggests ending Senate meetings by pitching questions for Dean for next meeting (or email moderator)
 3. Please email moderator with other thoughts
3. Moderator's report (10 min)
- a. Faculty Council survey motion update
 - a. Provost had agreed that a climate survey is a good idea, would recommend it be started in fall 2026, companies could bid, and would happen every 3 years
 - b. This seems to be moving forward
 - c. However, some people in CSM don't like the external one, would like to do an internal one as well this spring
 - d. Do we want to get involved with another in-house survey?
 - a. One senator suggests inviting CSM Senate Moderator in January
 - e. Should Senate be involved with design of survey?
 - a. Procedurally potentially not necessary
 - b. Senators consider both ways valid
 - c. One senator suggests just using the UMass Amherst company
 - a. Could use a motion to ask for those same questions
 - d. One senator suggests asking for a guarantee that results are made public
 - f. Senate drafts a motion indicating our desires for the survey: that the UMass Amherst company (COACHE) conducts the survey and that CSM and CLA have coordinated input
 - a. One senator wonders if we need to be involved in engaging with them or if it's fine to step aside at this point
 - b. Another senator agrees, wants to add a stipulation that results be shared publicly without delay
 - c. Motion is amended to reflect these concerns
 - g. Amended motion to ask that COACHE run the survey and that the results be released without delay passes the Senate
 - b. Course packet interest
 - a. News from departments:
 - a. Senators report some interest
 - b. Generally some hope that people would use AI less if they had course packets, retain information better
 - c. Department members want more information about logistics, cost, copyright issues
 - c. Spring meeting modality
 - a. Reminder that Senate meetings are meant to be primarily in-person, if need to miss bc of personal reasons, that's fine, but please keep in mind for spring
4. Course approvals (10 min)
- a. New courses:
 - i. PHIL 329: French and Francophone 20th Century Philosophy
 - i. One Senator wonders if PHIL might cross-list with French program
 - ii. Moderator will reach out about the possibility

- iii. PHIL department member suggests adopting, making small change later
- b. Substantial change:
 - i. ANTH 685: Advanced Practicum in Field Archaeology (change in credits)
 - ii. PSYCH 360: Behavioral Neuroscience (distinguishes BA/BS requirement)
 - iii. PSYCLN 650: Clinical Psychology Proseminar 1 (change in credits)
- c. Undergrad program change
 - i. Economics BA (change in how major GPA is calculated)
 - ii. Psychology BS (several changes)
- d. Grad program change
 - i. Historical Archaeology MA (change in credits)

All courses/changes approved unanimously

5. Budget report from Maria Brincker
 1. Not much information on the Budget Committee when they ask for more information from administration
 2. This information comes from a website that the administration set up, as well as the November meeting from Provost & Kathleen Kirleis
 1. Uses slides from November meeting
 3. Idea behind Beacon Budget Model: transparency and predictability, support university's strategic goals
 4. Wonders if this new system actually achieves these goals
 5. Sees major issues in transparency upwards, research allocation
 6. Shadow numbers: on shadow model, shows that CLA is in red, despite the number of students that we service
 1. Why? Expenses (direct), like salaries; Also indirect expenses which are less transparent
 7. QUESTIONS:
 1. One senator asks how the costs of grant-funded research are allocated
 1. Often in universities liberal arts subsidize other departments
 2. CLA needs support under shadow budget, which doesn't make a lot of sense
 2. One senator notes that what has changed since the November meeting is the breakdown for expenditures by college; CLA wasn't in red a few months ago, so what changed?
 1. Response: this is asymmetric transparency, so we don't know their calculations
 2. One senator wonders if there is a change in value of square footage that a college uses—and why would that happen?
 3. Starting a model in the red incentivizes cuts
 4. It also disincentivizes any kind of interdisciplinary work
 5. Response: this is a huge concern that we are starting in the red, and that might mean that the wrong things will be incentivized

1. It costs more to teach on campus than online; it costs too much to have labs, conferences
 2. And they've directly incentivized not hiring faculty with 'vacancy savings'
 3. One senator worries that this becomes a system of pitting colleges (and departments) against each other
 4. One senator asks how they came up with 80/20 split and how it compares to other institutions
 1. Response: fairly common at 'activities-based budget' institutions
 5. One senator asks what the university is still covering?
 6. What about research cost overhead—is this being covered centrally?
 1. All expenses now come out of one main center
 8. Budget committee member concerns
 1. Misaligned incentives—do departments have specifics?
 2. Question of asymmetric transparency—what don't we know about how things are calculated, given the high scrutiny we are about to be under?
6. New business (20 min)
7. Adjourn
 1. Meeting adjourned