**Minutes**

**Faculty Council 7 November 2024**

**256 BSC at 3:30pm**

**Voting Participants: Andre Zampaulo, George Ndege, Sarah Bauer, Elena Bray Speth, Flannery Burke, Kim Powlishta, Brenda Kirchoff, Elizabeth Block, Emily Hite, Ruth Warner, Melissa Ochoa, Rachel Greenwald Smith, Grant Kaplan, Anneke Bart, Ellen Carnaghan, Robert Hughes, Jennifer Korte, Jonathan Jacobs, Blythe Janowiak, Ruben Rodriguez, Ben England**

**Non-Voting Participants: Donna LaVoie, Laurie Russell, Mark Ruff, Jen Popiel, Dan Kozlowski, Gary Barker, Amy Wright, Dan Nickolai, Melinda McPherson, Laurie Shornick, Elizabeth Blake, Stephanie Tennill, Ness Sandoval, Kristin Kiddoo**

Welcome & Greetings

Ruben: Welcome! We cannot believe it's November. Thank you to all who asked for a hybrid format. We have decided we want voting members to be here and in person for voting. But welcome to all.

1. CAS Dean's report

    a. Final working group membership was announced on Friday 11/01. CAS is well-represented across all these groups. CAS has one or two members per committee, and each committee has only 7 members (including leads). These committees have been formed through faculty senate; committees report to the provost. Regular town halls will be assembled to communicate with the larger SLU community.

    b. Positive news: despite what seems like a recent wave of negative news, there are many accomplishments and points of pride. Student applications and confirmations are up relative to this same time last year; admits are slightly down. Research productivity is strong. A larger number of credit hours continues to be delivered to the student body.

        1. When looking at all R1s, SLU is above median research productivity. This includes grant funding, publications, awards, citations, conference proceedings, etc. It is important for all faculty members to include details in their annual activity reports so that we can track and report these.

        2. Question from Ruben: has the university given any thought to how our R1 status next year can be used in marketing and making us appealing? Answer from Donna: yes, our new marketing will advertise this, and it will be displayed on the SLU website starting next year. Website has been redesigned to emphasize our research and will launch in January.

        3. Question: any plans for an R1 celebration at the university? Answer from Donna: we should, but we're not sure it's on the radar. Particularly with a

new SLU president on the horizon. The R1 news may get overshadowed by the announcement of the new president.

4. Total grant expenditures: in Q1 this year, we are north of $1 million in grant expenditures, meaning grant money is flowing. CAS has 72 active research awards. Since July 1st, we have seven new grants awarded. The more people who apply, the greater the likelihood of being awarded money.

5. Teaching: CAS is delivering courses to18,066 students (nearly 48,000 credit hours). Obvious overlap in this first number. There are 11,028 students enrolled in CAS-delivered Core courses (32,444 credit hours) in fall 2024.

6. Question: are admits down due to FAFSA? Answer: it is possible that applications have not yet been reviewed. We are up to 1100 applications, with 130 clear admits. More to come in December.

7. Question: can students visit in an open house format? Answer from Donna: Yes, we do run that, but it will happen in the spring. In the past, we have recruited faculty to give a demo lecture in the spring. Students and families like that. These events will happen again in the spring; that is the plan for now.

Timestamp: 3:50pm

2. CAS Committee Reports:

   a. Faculty Advisory Committee (new charge from the Dean)

      1. Our task last year was to explore how departments handle voting for NTT faculty. We ended up looking into more than that because at the end of last year, we were asked to refrain from making new policy until the university NTT policy is completed. And then, we were informed that having a college-level NTT policy may not be useful since departments are so different in the college.

      2. Instead, we explored 1) what do we do well and should continue to do, 2) what should we stop doing, and 3) what new things could we do with re-allocated resources.

      3. In addition to teaching and research, one positive initiative we should continue to be engaged in is 1818. It has been scaled back, but perhaps there is more to do there. Consider taking advantages of relationships with high school students?

      4. What should we stop doing? Not much there we could discuss.

      5. What new things could we do? Maybe consider professional microcredentials and visit local high schools. We should think about the online course/distance education options within CAS. Are there retirees who would be interested in contributing? Thinking about study abroad

opportunities or extension classes. Should we create alumni/donor/faculty-led tours/travels?

6. Question: is there a way to share these ideas with the community? Answer: we can think about a Google doc to share.

7. We will also be making suggestions about NTT voting policies, so we may have some updates to share. It will not be a policy though.

b. Graduate Curriculum Committee

1. [Motion](#) was disseminated ahead of time. One new course and two program changes.

2. Motion passes unanimously.

c. Nominations Committee (Faculty Senate CAS representative)

1. Hisako Matsuo was elected to finish a two-year term due to a retirement.

d. Rank, Tenure, and Sabbatical Committee

1. No update

e. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

1. See [handout](#) for the course updates.

2. Question: what NEURO courses were rolled back? Answer: 1500 and 3555. They'll be back.

3. Question: How do we know when our proposals reach the committee? Do I need to check in daily? How do I know when the committee is meeting? We used to be invited to attend if we had a submission. Answer from Sarah: We usually meet the third week of the month. October was the first time we had a full committee; had to onboard a new person. We can announce our Zoom meetings so that people can attend. We can invite people if we need a deeper answer to a question. If there are topics where we feel it will be easier to hash out in a discussion, we invite them. I will make sure we communicate about meetings. But I can act on a course only when it gets to me.

4. Comment from Ruben: these are systemic questions, and I will meet with the registrar. Sometimes courseleaf attaches attributes that no longer exist, so I will work with Jay Haugen to get this streamlined. Response: this has been a problem for at least five years. Further comment: submitter can go on courseleaf can check in and see where the proposal is in the queue. Sometimes courses sit in the chairs box. Ruben: sometimes courseleaf drops things out of the workflow.

5. Comment: There are printouts/pages that can be used as visual how-to guides when working in courseleaf. But we should link to these pages in an obvious way. Comment: it may be useful to let your chairs know when you submit a new course, so they know it's coming.

6. Motion passes unanimously.

 f. DEI Committee

  1. We are discussing ways to increase sense of belonging and how to conduct exit interviews with outgoing seniors.

3. University Committee Reports:

 a. Faculty Senate

  1. Not much discussed at the meeting that has not been discussed in the town halls. Ruben: we have a new elected rep to the senate. Maybe we set up a rotating schedule of who can report here from the faculty senate.

 b. UUCC

  1. We have been discussing a potential policy about core open seminars (Ignite seminars and collaborative inquiry courses). We realize there are things we could make clearer regarding what's in the core. The vision is that these courses should be as open and interdisciplinary as possible so that they are open to students from different majors. Though sometimes this is not as possible due to programs that have high credit hour requirements.

  2. We would like to limit—as much as possible—the tendency for programs to close their CI courses. It limits the ability of students to meet others from other disciplines to work together to solve problems. So we have made a two-page policy *(linked above)*.

  3. Please email Elena at elena.brayspeth@slu.edu or Associate Dean Gary Barker with your comments about the document. We will discuss and wrap it up in one month.

  4. Question: are there any departments that have CI courses that also serve as their capstone but that are not high-credit majors? Answer: I don't think that's the case. Right now, the school of nursing, engineering, and some Doisy programs already made this clear that they could not fit in an external CI course, so they made one.

  5. Remember that there are workshops this year to get reacquainted with the core. One risk we encounter is that some CI courses sound like a major capstone, but they do have their own goals. We don't want to box in our students.

6. Comment from associate dean: I think it would be helpful that the UUCC hears responses from the CAS faculty directly rather than through Ellen Crowell. It is not as clear to me that the committee is of one mind on this. We need to make it clear there are some who feel this policy absolutely should happen, but not everyone feels that way. So their input is valid and needs to be heard, too. Input from this room is important.

c. UCART

1. No report

d. GAAC

1. No report

e. UAAC

1. Met this morning to discuss a few new programs and changes to programs. One of which is the data science program for Madrid and a modern language and intercultural communication minor to bring to the Saint Louis campus. We also discussed a few changes to a German microcredential. We discussed what the proposals were and will meet next week again.

f. Academic Program Review Council

1. No report

g. Library Advisory Committee

1. No report

4. New Business

a. Question: follow-up on announcement from the DEI committee. When you say exit survey, I assume that means seniors? Answer: yes. It is for seniors. Question: these would be designed at the college level and administered by departments? Answer: yes. The goal is to obtain uniform data because not all departments are asking the same questions. Further comment: There is a concern about survey fatigue. Response: yes, maybe we can think about DEI asking departments to add just two or three questions to their existing exit interviews.

Adjourn at 4:26pm.