**CLAS Faculty Council 2013-2014 Activities**

**Members:** Filiz Dogru (MTH), Stephen Matchett (CHM), Georgette Sass (BIO), Scott Stabler (HST), Keith Watts (MLL), George Lundskow (SOC)—Chair, Giuseppe Lupis (MUS)—Fall, Marlen Vavrikova (MUS)—Winter.

**Spring 2013**

 **New Hire Requests**. Faculty Council held its yearly Spring meeting to review and rank the new hire requests from all departments in CLAS. These recommendations were then passed to Dean Antczak for final review.

**Fall 2013**

The first order of business was to hold an unscheduled but necessary **Fall Election** to fill vacancies on the CLAS Personnel Committee, as these positions must be elected. Since other committees had vacancies as well, they were also included. We conducted the election and finalized the results on October 2. Some appointments were then made to fill seats on these other committees that were still vacant after the election.

**Out of the Box (OOTB).** This is an event that Faculty Council sponsors annually. This year, two groups of participants met to discuss best practices for assessment. Special thanks for their outstanding contributions go out to Scott Berlin from Social Work who spoke at the October 23rd date, and to Janelle Pettes Guikema from Modern Languages and Literatures who spoke at the October 31 date. Both were well-attended, and generated engaging discussion about the role of assessment and its practice at GVSU. Thanks to all who were able to attend. To extend this discussion Faculty Council will prepare a brief survey for implementation in Fall 2014.

**Winter 2014**

 **Committee Service.** The semester opened with considerable discussion about CLAS committee service. We formed a subcommittee to address both committee service and elections. The committee is attempting to develop ideas which will both encourage participation in governance and hopefully decrease the need for additional elections. While still in the discussion phase, we will seek an ongoing caucus with the Chairs of CLAS Personnel, Faculty Development, and Curriculum to ensure that any changes will best serve CLAS faculty and its committees.

 **Elections.** Spring elections were held and results are now in. Winners have been notified as well as committee chairs so that new members could be invited to the last meeting of the year if desired. We continue to look toward improving the election process where possible. One innovation already implemented was to list the open seats according to the length of term (e.g. 2 seats for three years each, 1 seat for one year, etc) instead of just the total number of open seats on a given committee. This allows nominees to better understand exactly what they are running for.

 **Universal Teaching Evaluations.** Faculty Council took two positions on this matter. First, that we did not find either of the evaluation forms currently under consideration by UAS as acceptable replacements to the status quo. Second, that individual departments should be allowed to opt-out of any form adopted in the future. These decisions were communicated to the Chair of UAS.

 **Sabbaticals.** As of this writing, Faculty Council is in the midst of discussion about the developing sabbaticals procedures being discussed in University governance. One of our final meetings this year will be with Merritt Taylor, Chair of Faculty Research and Development, Heather Van Wormer, Chair of CLAS Faculty Development, and Karen Gipson, Chair of UAS.