**CLAS Faculty Council Annual Report 2021-2022**

**Faculty Council Members:** Sally Ross (MOV), Len O'Kelly (COM), Randy Winchester (CHM), Grace Coolidge (HST), Anna Hammersmith (SOC), Steven Schlicker (MTH), Ernest Park (PSY), Keith Watts (MLL), Arthur Campbell (MTD)(Aug/Sept 2021) , Len O'Kelly (COM, Chair). **Ex officio members**: Charles Pazdernik (CLA, ECS Liaison); Dean Jen Drake; Associate Dean Donovan Anderson; Director of CLAS Communications and Advancement, Monica Johnstone

**Membership:** There was little turnover in the membership of the Council for this year compared to last year. One of the areas of fallout from the pandemic was difficulty in filling all elected governance seats, while other members already in place either stepped out of their roles or took on new ones. Teresa Castelo-Lawless (PHI) stepped down over the summer, and was replaced by Keith Watts (MLL) for the remainder of her term. The CFC chair for the past two years, Arthur Campbell (MTD), agreed to step down from the Council to fill a seat on the University Academic Senate. His seat went unfilled, and the CFC operated with eight members for the term. The membership turnover for the coming 2022/2023 year will be sizeable, with three new members joining the Council: Renee Zettle-Starling (VMA) and Kirk Anderson (STA) elected to three year terms, and Whitt Kilburn (PLS) for a one-year term replacing Steven Schlicker. The CFC, however, will return to a regular roster of nine members.

**Ranking of Faculty Requests:**  The CLAS Dean’s office has continued to use a metric-based system for fielding personnel requests for tenure-track lines. Through a series of presentations made to unit heads, the process was outlined clearly. There was a general sense that there will be fewer requests for a shrinking number of lines this year, and given the metrics used to inform units about their requests, the CFC felt it unnecessary to meet to make recommendations already made by the data.

# Out of the Box: As GVSU continued to adjust to a post-pandemic landscape, the traditional Out of the Box series was placed on hiatus for the year. Discussion took place about leading a workshop series in the 2022-23 year with support of the Faculty Development Committee. This workshop series will center on issues like empathy in a time of crisis. Exact dates have not been set but the goal is to offer the workshop early in calendar year 2023.

**Elections:** **Fall 2021:** Elections were not held in the fall semester.

**Winter 2021**: Tenure Track and Affiliate faculty elections for open seats on the University and College committees were held in January. In all, 73 positions on 28 committees were open. 67 positions on 26 committees were open for tenure track faculty. 301 of 502 eligible tenure track faculty voted. 6 positions were open on 2 affiliate committees. 38 of 104 eligible affiliate faculty voted. **At the time of this report, vacancies still remain.** Of the 67 tenure-track governance positions, only 53 were filled through the election. Alternate appointments have been made to several committees, but these positions are for one-year terms and will lead to a large number of open seats again in the 2022-23 election cycle. After a pause in sabbatical approvals due to Covid-19, about 11% of the CLAS faculty will be on sabbatical in 2022-23, which has created additional seats to fill across committees. The Faculty Council continues to work to fill these important roles in faculty governance.

**CFC Governance Subcommittee:** This subcommittee was deftly chaired by Anna Hammersmith (SOC). It concerned itself primarily with updating the information on the CLAS Governance Blackboard site and with bringing CLAS committee documents up to date. It will continue to work on this project in the coming academic year.

**CLAS Budget:** A standing CLAS Budget Committee, formed in the 2020-21 academic year, continued to meet. The CFC chair retains a seat on this committee. The CLAS Budget Committee advised on a number of important issues over the year including unit head compensation, discussion about future budget models for the College, and a last-second advising session regarding the College’s responsibility in dealing with salary compression adjustments

**Engagement with ECS/UAS:** Charles Pazdernik, our liaison with ECS/UAS made regular reports to CFC. This resulted in various communications between CFC and ECS where appropriate. CFC members were able to raise concerns to the ECS/UAS about issues pertaining to the University’s Title IX investigation from Summer 2021 and also pertaining to non-disparagement language present in VRIP documentation.

**CLAS faculty representation:** After several years of discussion, a pilot version of direct CFC representation to CLAS units began in 2021-22. CFC members regularly reported to their own units along with others selected based on meeting time availability. This program, with some fine-tuning, will continue in 2022-23. CFC members will continue to communicate with, and encourage input from, their assigned units. CFC hopes that this will further encourage participation in governance, committee participation, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Len O’Kelly

CFC Chair 2021-2022