**To: All CLAS Faculty**

**From: Grace Coolidge, Chair, 2010-2011 CLAS Faculty Council**

**Re: 2010-2011 Faculty Council Annual Report**

**March 21, 2011**

The Faculty Council began the year in May 2010 by ranking the department search requests and sending those rankings on to Dean Antczak for consideration. During the summer members of the Faculty Council met with the ac hoc committee for Academic Integrity led by Dan Vaughn and with members of the Academic Policies and Standards Committee to start planning the Fall 2010 Out-of-the-Box events.

In Fall 2010 with the generous support of the Dean’s office, the Faculty Council presented three interactive Out-of-the-Box events that focused on the issue of Academic Integrity. Since the Academic Policies and Standards Committee was in the process of reporting on their findings and presenting a new policy for reporting violations of academic integrity, we decided that the Out-of-the-Box workshops could most productively focus on the culture of academic integrity within CLAS. With the generous support of Dan Vaughn (chair of the Academic Policies and Standards Committee), Charlie Lowe (Assistant Professor of Writing), and Ginger Randall (Dean of Students), we created an interactive workshop for faculty. The workshops focused on defining academic integrity, identifying violations (plagiarism, cheating, etc.), and then working on both how to cope with those violations and how to prevent them from happening again. With help from Cory DiCarlo, George Lundskow, and David Kurjiaka, the workshops provided handouts on syllabus statements, best practices and resources, as well as information from Dan Vaughn on the newly proposed policy for reporting plagiarism. Nancy Mack from the Faculty Council also spoke with the CLAS Student Advisory Council and brought us a report on student attitudes towards academic integrity. Faculty took quizzes, worked through simulations, and participated in several different kinds of discussion about academic integrity and how it interacts with our classrooms and our teaching philosophies. Evaluations suggested that faculty had greatly enjoyed the discussions and had benefitted from the resources. With the help of Monica Johnstone, Director of Communications for the CLAS Dean’s Office, the Faculty Council put together a website (<http://gvsu.edu/clas/academic-integrity-294.htm>) with resources and links as an ongoing follow-up to the OOTB series. The Faculty Council tentatively plans to focus next year’s OOTB series on service and all its ramifications.

In addition to the OOTB workshops, the Faculty Council has been working on a proposed revision of the repeat policy which will hopefully relieve the registration issues surrounding key courses which fill early with students who are repeating the class. With help from Shaily Menon, we drafted a proposed policy and presented it to the Unit Heads in January. Based on their feedback, we are now drafting an Academic Amnesty policy to supplement the repeat policy. The Faculty Council has also had a stimulating conversation on advising and with help from Associate Dean Mary Schutten and the head of the CLAS Advising Center, Betty Schaner, have drafted a memo to the CLAS Dean’s office with suggestions about improving the resources available to faculty advisors and about improving recognition and rewards for good advising at all levels of the personnel process. We are in the process of drafting a memo in support of the issue of revisiting the university policy on AP credits, which is currently being taken up by the Academic Policies and Standards Committee.

The Faculty Council followed up on the memo we had sent to ECS asking that they review the procedure that led to the decision to deprive associate deans of their vote in the personnel process. Rather than reviewing that decision with the ECS, the ECS chair Kristine Mullendore requested a meeting with the chair of the Faculty Council. Gabriela Pozzi and I attended a meeting with Kristine Mullendore, Tom Butcher, Jon Jellema, and Kurt Ellenberger. The result of that meeting was that the decision about the voting rights of the associate deans was sent to the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (chaired by Kurt Ellenberger) for review. The FPPC agreed with the original decision that associate deans should not have the right to vote in the unit personnel process.

The Dean Feedback committee, a sub-committee of the Faculty Council led by FC member Gabriela Pozzi, was formed this fall. They set up a series of focus groups that met throughout the semester, collected data, and wrote a report for Dean Antczak which will be available to all CLAS faculty this semester. The CLAS Faculty Council approved that report, had a conversation with Dean Antczak about it, and has started working with him to implement some of the suggested changes.

In addition to these issues, the Faculty Council continues to work hard to make sure that the CLAS elections run smoothly and CLAS faculty are well-represented on all CLAS and University committees. Colleen Lewis is an instrumental part of this process. In the fall we ran a special election for alternates to the CLAS Personnel Committee. This year we implemented the change in the by-laws that allowed faculty members with a one-semester sabbatical to reclaim their committee seats after the sabbatical. We notified everyone affected by the change to make sure they were aware of it and did actually want their seats back, and then worked to find replacements for all who could not return to their committee responsibilities. In response to suggestions from committee chairs and members, the current ballot contains a proposed language change that will allow committee members with year-long sabbaticals to reclaim their seats also. The CLAS nomination ballot closed on Wednesday, March 16th with a record number of nominees and the election is currently in process. The results will be announced on April 7th.

2010-2011 CLAS Faculty Council: Grace Coolidge (HST), Colleen Lewis (MOV), George Lundskow (SOC), Gang Xu (GEO), Danielle Weise-Leek (COM), Gabriela Pozzi (MLL), Shaily Menon (BIO), Cory DiCarlo (CHEM), Nancy Mack (MTH). Fall Sabbatical Replacements: Giuseppe Lupis (MUS); David Kurjiaka (BMS).