**To: All CLAS Faculty**

**From: Colleen Lewis, Chair, 2012-2013 CLAS Faculty Council**

**Re: 2012-2013 Faculty Council Annual Report**

**March 20, 2013**

 The Faculty Council began the year in May 2012 by ranking departmental search requests and sending those rankings on to the CLAS Dean’s Office for consideration. During the summer, members of the Faculty Council began the process of organizing and planning the fall 2012 Out-of-the-Box events.

 With the generous support of the Dean’s office, the CLAS Faculty Council presented three interactive Out-of-the-Box events that focused on the issue of “Re-Thinking Advising: Seeking Student Retention and a Path to Faculty Equity”. This topic is especially critical to all faculty within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as advising is an integral part of teaching effectiveness as described in the CLAS tenure and promotion document. There have been many lively discussions at both the departmental and college level related to the role of advising in terms of faculty workload and student retention, we decided that an Out-of-the-Box workshop would most productively focus on this topic. The CLAS Faculty Council created an interactive workshop for faculty with the support of the CLAS Academic Advising Center. Betty Schaner, Director of the CLAS Academic Advising Center spoke to the shared role of advising students that CLAS has adopted in that both professional advisors in CLAS Academic Advising Center and faculty advisors are critical for students to have a positive academic experience at GVSU as well as graduate in a timely manner. Mary Schutten, CLAS Associate Dean of Curriculum and Students spoke to the link between advising and retention of students. She also shared some real life experiences of superior advising and advising “gone bad” that has been seen at the CLAS Dean’s level. These discussions provided a framework for understanding academic advising in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences but the purpose of an Out of the Box experience is to allow faculty to engage, discuss and problem solve. Faculty worked in small groups to respond to a series of scenarios created by CLAS Faculty Council focused on issues of faculty workload and equity in terms of advising. These scenarios provided animated discussions on advising in terms of tenure and promotion, the faculty activity report, workload and training for both new faculty as well as faculty who are tenured. Evaluations suggested that faculty greatly enjoyed the discussions and were excited that the topic of advising was being addressed at the college level. In order to continue this discussion, the CLAS Personnel Committee was invited to attend a meeting and discuss the issue of advising related to tenure and promotion. In addition, CLAS Faculty Council assisted the CLAS Academic Advising Center in updating the advising liaison document and workshop ideas. We continue to work with the CLAS Dean’s Office to facilitate unit head sessions on best practices in advising and opportunities to change departmental culture in terms of advising. The CLAS Faculty Council looks forward to planning next year’s OOTB with another exciting topic.

 In addition to the OOTB workshops, The CLAS Faculty Council discussed the Academic Appeals Process reviewing the procedures as it relates to faculty. Comments were sent on to the CLAS Academic Advising Center. CLAS Faculty Council invited CLAS Associate Dean Shaily Menon to discuss mentoring at the departmental, college and university levels. Following a general description of the differences between the various levels of mentoring, much discussion focused on new faculty and whether more experienced faculty, new to Grand Valley State University, required the same mentoring as faculty who were new to academia. Sarah Beaubien has also been invited to speak to CLAS Faculty Council regarding the issue of copyright at the university level. We look forward to an interesting conversation.

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. In the fall we ran a special election for multiple position on the CLAS Personnel Committee. We have just completed the 2013-2014 election for College and University governance committees. In order for each department to understand their engagement in faculty governance, emails were sent to each unit listing the number of people who were engaged in service during the 2012-2013 academic year. This facilitated an increase of nominees from many departments. The CLAS nomination ballot closed on February 21st with a record number of nominees and the election process was completed March 14th with record number of faculty who voted. The results were then announced on March 20th. Engaging faculty in the governance process is a critical responsibility for CLAS Faculty Council and each member of this committee works hard to achieve this goal.

**2012-2013 CLAS Faculty Council: Anne Caillaud (MUS), Karen Gipson (PHY), Colleen Lewis (MOV), George Lundskow (SOC), Giuseppe Lupis (MUS), Nancy Mack (MTH) Georgette Sass (BIO) and Scott Stabler (HST)**