

CLAS Faculty Council 2017-2018 Annual Report

Membership:

Arthur Campbell
Anne Caillaud (Winter only)
Dan Frobish (Fall only)
Michael Henshaw (Chair)
David Kurjiaka
Figen Mekik
Pei-Lan Tsou
Heather Van Wormer
Elizabeth Wheatley
Randy Winchester

Ex Officio:

Frederick Antczak
Gretchen Galbraith
Monica Johnstone
Tonya Parker

Faculty Council is the executive committee for faculty governance within CLAS. It is responsible for administering governance elections, encouraging faculty participation in the shared governance process, and in advising the dean on issues related to faculty within CLAS. Further, as needed, Faculty Council maintains and updates the CLAS governance bylaws, as well as the CLAS standards and criteria for personnel evaluation.

CLAS Governance Elections

One of the primary responsibilities of Faculty Council is to administer the election of CLAS faculty representatives on college and university committees. In the Fall, 6 open seats were filled on three committees while an additional 4 sabbatical replacements were selected. There were 19 nominees for the open positions and more than 200 CLAS faculty voted in the election. The winter election is the primary election and was substantially larger. We filled 62 open positions on 26 committees. There were 132 nominees for the open positions and 266 of approximately 500 eligible CLAS faculty voted in the winter election. Sabbaticals are announced too late to replace them as part of the election itself, so sabbatical replacements are found among those who ran for open positions. We found replacements for 16 sabbatical openings. Two sabbatical replacements remain unfilled and must be determined in a fall election. Finally, we ran separate elections for Affiliate faculty representatives on the CLAS and university Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committees. Eleven positions were filled on the two committees. There were 12 nominations and 59 of the 108 eligible-faculty voted in the election. One position on the university affiliate committee remains to be filled in a fall election.

Faculty Line Recommendations

In its advisory role, Faculty Council reviewed the position requests from units within CLAS and made recommendations to the Dean regarding prioritization to the requested positions. Our recommendations are based upon the rationales provided by the units as well as an analysis of trends in the teaching workload (i.e., Student Credit Hours, SCH) for each unit and the number of faculty units have to meet teaching demands.

Revisions to CLAS governance bylaws / New AFAC

Faculty Council worked with an affiliate faculty working group to establish a new committee in the CLAS faculty governance structure – the CLAS Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (CAFAC). We collaboratively drafted and revised new bylaws for CAFAC, and modified the CLAS governance bylaws to accommodate the new committee in the governance structure. The modified governance bylaws were approved by the CLAS tenure track faculty in the winter election by a vote of 229 to 8. The CAFAC bylaws were approved by the affiliate faculty by a vote of 47 to 0. The new CAFAC committee includes 9 affiliate faculty representatives from across CLAS who will advise the college on issues related to affiliate faculty

Out of the Box event – Collaborative Teaching

Each winter, Faculty Council organizes a 2-hour discussion or workshop designed to address timely issues that CLAS faculty face and to find creative solutions to those challenges. The workshop is offered on two different days to accommodate faculty schedules. This year we continued the topic from the previous year, examine collaborative teaching, including the challenges and barriers to the development of such collaborations, the resources available to faculty, and ways in which collaborative teaching can be encouraged, and facilitated. This year we had 19 registrants for the first session and 12 for the second. The key challenges that were identified were the time to develop new collaborations, the resources to support collaborative teaching, and finally, identifying potential collaborators. Faculty were encouraged to consider finding smaller forms of collaboration (e.g., shared assignments, guest lectures), which retain many of the benefits of more extensive collaborative teaching arrangements (e.g., team teaching a course, linked courses) but require greater investments of time and resources. Such starting points can also develop into more extensive forms of collaboration, and will provide the justifications for the investments necessary. Faculty Council is currently developing new materials to offer examples of how one could collaborate in these ways, and will be working on ways to help those who are interested in collaborating to find suitable partners.

Unit Service Award

Each year, Faculty Council awards the unit service award to the unit that has the highest rate of participation in faculty governance. The award considers the number of faculty who are serving on committees, the workloads of the committees, as well as whether unit members serve as chairs of committees. The amount of service is relative to the size of each unit. This year, Cell & Molecular Biology won the Unit Service Award.

Continuing revisions to CLAS Personnel Standards

Faculty Council has spent much of the year revising the CLAS Standards and Criteria for Personnel Evaluation. First, these draft changes align the CLAS document with changes to the Board of Trustees policies that were recently approved regarding service expectations for faculty (BOT 3.01.C). We are also working to clarify the requirements in CLAS for tenure, and

promotion at each level under all possible scenarios of tenure and promotion decisions (e.g., tenure as Associate Professor, or as a Professor, etc...).