

CLAS Faculty Development Committee 2022-2023 Annual Report

Membership:

Robert Pearson (Chair)
Nicholas Lerma
Carrie Bruek Morris

Filiz Dogru
Ian Cleary
Scott Thorgaard

David Crane
Bret Linford
Tim Evans

Ex Officio: Donovan Anderson

Administrative Support: Kristin Winfrey & Heidi Nicholson

The CLAS Faculty Development Committee (FDC) is a faculty advocacy committee that sees its mission as addressing the issues that affect the development of CLAS faculty in the areas of teaching, research and service. Historically, issues brought to the committee's attention by CLAS faculty have determined much of our agenda, but this has not been the case over recent years. Faculty members with a concern about an issue affecting faculty development are encouraged to contact the FDC chair. The committee met for 75 minutes every other week from September to April.

Teaching and Scholarship Awards

In October, the FDC reviewed CLAS nominations for FTLC and CSCE faculty awards. We were fortunate to enlist the help of two undergraduate students, Ty Krueger (Classics) and Claire Berndt (MTD) to help evaluate the FTLC Teaching Excellence award. The nominations were all impressive and we congratulate the CLAS recipients of the awards. It should be noted that the number of nominations for many of the awards was below the number that CLAS is allowed to advance. Units should be encouraged to nominate more candidates for these awards.

Sabbatical Proposals

At the behest of Dean Drake, the FDC reviewed five sabbatical applications that had been submitted by CLAS faculty members. These were proposals that were either not recommended or recommended with reservations by the USRC. These reviews took place during meetings in November and December before advancing our recommendations to the Dean.

Encouraging Sabbatical Proposals

The committee devoted several meetings to discuss reasons why so many sabbatical-eligible CLAS faculty do not submit proposals and to develop strategies for encouraging them to do so. We developed and shared a document encouraging faculty members to apply. Bob Smart and Richard Lord were invited to meet and provide input.

Noteworthy Discussion Topics

The topic of faculty workload was discussed on several occasions, with Nick Lerma driving much of the discussion based on work he had done with a workload dashboard and bringing transparency toward equity in service assignments. Additional topics of discussion included Blackboard Ultra and invisible labor involved in the transition, and generally how to help faculty thrive and factors that contribute to feelings of burnout.