

Minutes: November 9, 2021

College of Liberal Arts Faculty Senate

<https://cla.purdue.edu/faculty-staff/facsenate/>

Prepared by Bradley Dilger, Secretary <dilger@purdue.edu>.

Approved by Faculty Senate January 11, 2022.

Roll

The meeting was convened using Zoom at 3:33p by Senate Chair Patricia Boling, who acknowledged the First Peoples.

Guests: Dorsey Armstrong, David Atkinson, Briggitta August, Pedro Bassoe, Melanie Beasley, Sherri Briller, Michele Buzon, Marlo David, Joel Ebarb, Arne Flaten, Erika Gotfredson, Tammy Hare, Wei Hong, Sorin Matei, Shannon McMullen, Zoe Nyssa, Ashley Purpura, Aparajita Sagar, Tony Silva, Holly Tittle-Hudson, Sally Wallace, Fiona Wang, Bill White, Jen William, Christine Wuenschel, Laura Zanotti.

Senators absent: Bross, Kelly, Lindsay, Marsh, McCann, Parrish, Reimer, Sanchez-Llama, Veldwachter, Zook.

Professor Andrew Flachs present as alternate for Senator Lindsay.

Professor Cole Jones present as alternate for Senator Zook.

Professor Dwayne Woods present as alternate for Senator McCann.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Boling presented the minutes from the meeting of October 5.

Motion to approve by Senator Webb, seconded by Senator Viele.

Dilger shared three corrections. No further corrections were noted.

The minutes were approved, with corrections noted, by voice vote.

2. Chair's Remarks – Dr. Patricia Boling

Boling welcomed the CLA Faculty and reminded them to share any suggestions for CLA action using the [Qualtrics form on the Senate website](#). She asked faculty to share with colleagues.

Boling noted her continuing concern about issues previously discussed at Senate, including delayed faculty searches in African-American Studies and Purdue administration response to sexual assault on campus.

Boling shared her pleasure in seeing candidates for faculty jobs on campus, the Purdue football team winning, and our campus avoiding large-scale Covid-19 problems — with four weeks left in the semester.

3. Dean's Report

Because of a schedule conflict, the order of presentations was reversed from the agenda.

3a. *Briggitta August, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives*

Boling welcomed new CLA Director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives Briggitta August.

August introduced herself (Bri-Gee-Ta, she/her/hers), describing her prior experiences at Purdue (since January 2019) and in K12 in Michigan. She is from Cape Town, South Africa.

August has met with many people from many departments across CLA, including every department head. She has started to form a plan for the next three years, as summarized on her slide deck. Her position has three focuses: student recruitment and retention; building a college culture, and being a resource for faculty (40/40/20%).

In student recruitment, August engages all students and is involved across campus. The three locations of Purdue Polytechnic High School (two in Indianapolis and one in South Bend) are important. She has also been working extensively with the 40+ students in the Deans' Ambassadors and connecting with other students about the possibility of student groups. For graduate students, one focus is working environment. Programs like Emerging Leaders and BoilerMentors are also important for CLA. August recognized this is First-Generation Student Week and noted current activities with many more to come.

Speaking to college culture, August spoke of coordinating with Purdue cultural centers and the Office of the Provost, and seeking to create specific resources targeting key areas. For example, she has hired a student to work on Black history at Purdue. August requested faculty help collating resources related to Black history.

As a faculty resource, August expressed a desire to serve. For example, she recently supported a faculty search by meeting with a candidate. She praised the work Purdue faculty have already done to support DEI, and hopes to gather resources from across CLA into a central space for sharing. August also promised to support the Senate's new DEI committee. She invited any CLA faculty to contact her if she can be a resource.

The floor was opened for questions.

Dilger applauded August's work, and Boling concurred.

August's slide deck will be available on the Senate web site.

3b. *Sorin Matei, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education*

CLA Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education Sorin Matei presented the annual Extramural Funding report.

Matei shared data that showed that despite Covid-19 impacts, CLA award funding has been strong, with a diversity of funding coming in. Social sciences, especially Communication, have won significant grants, coming from both state and Federal funding. Overall CLA has won fewer grants but has won larger grants. No department is a clear leader, but Anthropology, Communication, and Sociology are notable.

Submissions are also trending upward, especially multi-institutional proposals, which is very good news. Assistant professors are well-represented in submissions; there are more submissions in Spring than Fall. The CLA success rate is overall about 30%, which Matei characterized as “moderate to good.”

Matei noted that internal CLA grant competitions have resumed, and he was excited about the potential for the Research Academy and the Center for Arts and Humanities.

The floor was opened for questions.

Senator Johnston asked how fellowships were counted. Matei explained that all external fellowships should appear in his report, as collated by Sponsored Program Services (SPS).

Senator Peterson noted the benefit of PROMISE for graduate students. She asked if there was a way that deadlines for fellowships could be more often communicated to CLA graduate students and faculty.

Matei noted that next year internal competitions will become part of the Research Academy. CLA recently hired a student to help keep those up to date. He acknowledged a more stable calendar could be useful.

Peterson followed up to clarify that the CLA opportunities are the ones that could use the most attention since those are not on the EVPRP web site.

Matei noted that ASPIRE and PROMISE are rolling deadlines.

Erika Gotfredson (PhD candidate, English, and Senate agenda committee member) underscored Peterson’s point. She noted other graduate students wanted more centralized lists of external funding given that faculty awareness of opportunities was highly variable. Gotfredson noted that meeting deadlines for internal fellowships was difficult given that notice was sometimes extremely short.

Matei thanked Gotfredson for her comments and promised to work more with graduate directors to share deadlines more quickly.

Professor Nyssa agreed with Gotfredson and observed international, first-generation, and under-represented students could benefit from a more legible funding landscape.

Dilger shared a resource he had recently seen with [hundreds of funding opportunities](#).

Senator Clawson thanked Matei for providing the data on external grants.

Matei’s slide deck will be available on the Senate web site.

Boling thanked August and Matei for their presentations.

4. Old Business

Boling returned to two issues recently discussed:

First, issues related to parental leave under FMLA. She asked the Senate Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion committee (DEI) to investigate and report back to the Senate by March 2022. She noted that the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) should be consulted, but asked that DEI be the focus given faculty retention issues presented to the Senate.

Second, sexual assault on campus, including Purdue's response. She noted a variety of campus units involved: Title IX (Office of Institutional Equity, OIE); the Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE); and Purdue and West Lafayette police. Issues are relevant for faculty responsibilities and engagement with students. Boling asked DEI to conduct fact finding regarding engagement of the issue at University Senate, #MeToo activists at Purdue, OIE.

Boling asked the Senate for their input regarding the way we should approach the issue.

Flachs, DEI committee member, requested assistance from the Senate regarding the information that could be most useful with regarding these issues.

Professor Marlo David agreed the CLA faculty should have a response. Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) is seeking to fill its open director position; that has magnified the importance of these issues because with no director, WGSS's ability to respond now is diminished.

Senator Clair asked if the Senate and/or the DEI committee could support Feminist Action Coalition for Today (FACT), a Purdue women's student group (and the oldest student feminist group on campus).

David pointed out that Senator Jennifer Freeman-Marshall is the FACT advisor. She agreed students are frustrated with Purdue's victim-blaming messages. She agreed CLA has a role to speak up here. Freeman-Marshall seconded David's concern about the vacant WGSS director position. She confirmed she is the advisor for FACT and they remain active. However, Freeman-Marshall is still unsure what the Senate response should be. She pointed out that faculty responsibility as mandatory reporters bears weight here, referencing an recent article about Women's Studies courses.

Clawson confirmed that her women students "have had it" and the lack of a supportive environment at Purdue is disrupting their ability to do their schoolwork.

Senator Rand observed that asking students to avoid situations where they might be sexually assaulted shifts responsibility away from the perpetrators and assumes that anyone can know where they are likely to be assaulted.

Flachs noted that the DEI committee had discussed these issues at their first meeting. He also noted they had discussed the mandatory reporter issue and hoped it could be considered later.

Clair suggested students could speak with long-time faculty formerly involved with the Sexual Harassment Advisory Network (SHAN), though it is no longer active.

Rand asked why SHAN was disbanded; David asked when. Executive Associate Dean Joel Ebarb offered to contact Professor Carol Cunningham (DAP), who was a leader in SHAN for many years, to seek an answer to those questions.

Boling observed that mandatory reporting had shifted faculty responsibilities and may have impacted SHAN as well.

Professor Aparajita Sagar, DEI co-chair, said that she understood SHAN was dissolved in response to recent revisions in mandatory reporting. She noted graduate students in English had sought direction from her about mandatory reporting and best practices for supporting students who confide in them.

Professor Michele Buzon and Clawson pointed out that recent revisions of Title IX meant most faculty are no longer [mandatory reporters](#). Professor Laura Zanotti then confirmed what Buzon and Clawson had shared. Zanotti suggested contacting Christy Wright in OIE or Tammy Patrick in CARE for clarity on changes in mandatory reporting; both had helped Anthropology with presentations for their graduate students.

5. Committee Reports

Nominating & elections committee:

Boling praised Peterson for her work populating the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) committee quickly, noting the faculty appointed are clearly eager to engage its important work.

Diversity, equity, & inclusion committee:

Flachs introduced the DEI committee, co-chaired by Sagar and Professor Pedro Bassoe, and confirmed they are working on family leave and sexual assault response, as noted earlier. He asked the Senate for feedback about the specific scope of the committee's fact-finding in that regard.

Flachs affirmed the DEI committee was thrilled to have the opportunity to work with August to fulfill their charge from the Senate.

Curriculum committee

Senator Viele presented for the Curriculum Committee, reviewing the curriculum changes delivered to the Senate on October 26. A copy is available on the Senate web site.

Motion to approve by Senator Davis, seconded by Senator Klein-Pejšová. There was no discussion.

Motion carries 27–0. The curriculum changes are approved.

Agenda committee

Dilger's report on an update from Lori Sparger regarding the CLA Strategic Plan was tabled because Sparger was unable to attend.

6. New Business

No new business was brought to the Senate.

7. Adjourn

Boling suggested adjournment at 4:47pm.

Motion to adjourn by Davis, seconded by Denny.

Adjournment was approved by voice vote.