**DRAFT Minutes: February 8, 2022**

**College of Liberal Arts Faculty Senate**  
<https://cla.purdue.edu/faculty-staff/facsenate/>

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*Not yet approved by Faculty Senate. For consideration March 8, 2022.*

# Roll

The meeting was convened using Zoom at 3:32pm by Senate Chair Patricia Boling, who acknowledged the First Peoples.

**Guests:** Pedro Bassoe, Elena Coda, Arne Flaten, Elaine Francis, Erika Gotfredson, Wei Hong, Matthew Kroll, Cherie Maestas, Sorin Matei, Zoe Nyssa, Melissa Remis, Aparajita Sagar, Lori Sparger, Holly Tittle-Hudson, Jen William, Chris Yeomans, Laura Zanotti.

**Senators absent:** Channon, Denny, Johnson-Sheehan, Kaufman-Buhler, Kelly, Marsh, Parrish.

# 1. Approval of the Minutes

## a) December 7, 2021

Boling presented the minutes from the meeting of December 7, 2021.

Senator Bradley Dilger shared corrections and clarifications proposed by Provost Jay Akridge.

The Senate had no further changes or corrections.

Motion to approve by Senator Fritz Davis, seconded by Senator Elizabeth Hoffman.

The minutes were approved, with changes proposed by Provost Akridge, by voice vote.

## b) January 11, 2022

Boling presented the minutes from the meeting of January 11, 2022.

The Senate had no changes or corrections.

Motion to approve by Davis, seconded by Hoffman.

The minutes were approved as submitted by voice vote.

# 2. Chair’s Remarks – Dr. Patricia Boling

Boling’s remarks were short given the long agenda. She noted the Senate leadership has fielded questions about CLA faculty governance and is communicating with Purdue faculty involved in the wider shared governance conversation at Purdue. Expect to hear more at our full faculty meeting March 8.

# 3. Dean’s Report

Professor Cherie Maestas and Professor Melissa Remis shared a report on the nascent CLA Research Academy, which was developed following recommendations from the CLA Strategic Plan, with a task force including Davis and Professor Jen William. As noted in previous Senate meetings, implementation has been slowed due to the Covid-19 budget freeze, but is proceeding now.

The broadest goal of the Academy is advancing scholarship for all CLA faculty, so research is less concentrated among a few highly active scholars, and strengthening the research culture across all units in CLA.

That includes several key initiatives:

1. Asking faculty with high impact research to create a “brain trust” for mentoring and to transfer research knowledge to others, e.g. the many pre-tenure faculty joining CLA in the next year;
2. Seeing the addition of pre-tenure faculty as an opportunity for growth in research;
3. Supporting active grant seekers: in developing new proposals, managing existing grants, seed grants, and mentoring;
4. Increasing the impact and visibility of existing research;
5. Encouraging evidence-based practices for strengthening the culture of research across CLA;
6. Providing “concierge services” to connect faculty with people across the university who can offer support, e.g. in post-award and marketing;
7. Securing external funding to support programming.

Maestas shared two examples: the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the Humanities Institute at UC-Santa Cruz. Both have secured external grants (NSF, Sloan, Mellon) to support their work. Both have advanced interdisciplinary research.

Maestas shared the expected administrative structure of the Academy: a director, a staff member, a scholar/manager in residence to assist with research processes, and scholars in residence to mentor faculty in grant seeking and other areas. The Academy will be open to all. Fellows will be selected annually to help build the culture of research. Partnerships with existing units e.g. Advanced Methods at Purdue (AMAP) and the Purdue Policy Research Institute (PPRI) will be a priority as well. Maestas presented plans for activities across four areas of research: recognition & networking, mentoring & training, lifecycle support, and internal projects.

The floor was opened for questions. Maestas invited feedback on three particular items:

1. What resources and activities are most essential to make this a successful long term unit?
2. What would make the Academy valuable to you, personally, or to those in your units?
3. How do you see yourself participating in the Academy?

She noted a survey would be distributed next week.

Boling asked if Center fellowships would be returning. Remis answered that one of the goals of the Academy was offering something like the Center fellowships but with broader participation that was not segmented across different areas (humanities, social sciences, arts).

Senator Andrew Flachs thanked Maestas and asked, “How will this dovetail (and hopefully enhance and improve upon) with existing CLA seed grant opportunities for faculty/students and existing press release or news services?”

Maestas noted the Academy would first try to learn what types of seed grants were most effective, then develop activities that would build on those opportunities, with careful tracking of impact across multiple areas of need. She asked CLA Chief Operating Officer Lori Sparger to speak to the PR angle.

Sparger noted the way Purdue’s central media units have changed messaging to focus on Purdue Moves topics. As a result, CLA should explore promotion for the Academy both on its own, with existing networks, and in concert with marketing staff in other colleges and EVPRP.

Maestas asked how the Academy could be vital, and William echoed the question.

Senator Rebekah Klein-Pejšová asked if book podcasts could be a part of the work of the Academy, then promoted by the university and social media. Maestas agreed that was fantastic.

Boling asked how the Academy organizers have thought about the challenge of community building. Maestas suggested cross-unit collaboration would help, not to mention the idea of “concierge” service and dedicated staff able to identify and support specific research infrastructure needs. She hopes the Academy will be structured so those who contribute get value from it as well.

Flachs noted the promise of similar centers (e.g. Yale/agrarian studies, Brown/public policy), especially those with post-docs and workshop series that provide space for new work. New programs from NEH could provide support.

Dilger agreed that post-docs would be valuable and are much needed. Maestas also agreed. Ideally, Academy leadership would be writing grants that funded broad post-doc programs, e.g. for URMs.

Senator Kristina Bross asked if the Academy will have physical space. Sparger answered that finding space is a challenge, but the Academy is definitely part of her work identifying space for new faculty and shifts in work modalities for next year.

Senator Torsten Reimer thanked Maestas and Remis for their presentation.

The slide deck Maestas shared is available on the Senate web site.

# 4. Old Business

None.

# 5. Committee Reports

## a) Curriculum committee

Senator Amanda Viele presented for the Curriculum Committee, reviewing the curriculum changes delivered to the Senate on January 20. A copy is available on the Senate web site.

Boling asked a question about the BA in Artificial Intelligence. Professor Chris Yeomans explained there was a complementary BS in Computer Science.

Motion to approve by Davis, seconded by Senator Harry Bulow. There was no discussion.

**Motion carries 31–0.** The curriculum changes are approved.

## b) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Because of technical problems, the report on the campus climate regarding sexual assault by Professor Pedro Bassoe and Professor Aparajita Sagar will be rescheduled.

## c) Educational Policy Committee

Professor Laura Zanotti presented for the Educational Policy Committee, reviewing the proposed changes in comparison to the current requirement, explaining the rationale behind the composed change, which is intended to accommodate international students who are already multilingual. She pointed out one minor change to the document. She thanked the committee, especially Professor Elaine Francis, and the School of Languages and Cultures (SLC), for consultation regarding the new language.

Senator Patti Thomas asked about international students outside of CLA and asked if back credits would affect time to degree for CLA students.

Zanotti explained the rules regarding back credit would apply equally to CLA- and non-CLA students, both domestic and international. Review of information provided by Undergraduate Curriculum & Research Coordinator Holly Tittle-Hudson suggested minimal impact.

Executive Associate Dean Joel Ebarb noted that most CLA students graduate with many more credits than the 120 required.

Boling asked for a short summary of the impact on international students.

Zanotti said that students not able to fulfill the language requirement via their native language would have options other than a proficiency test, while at the same time not detracting from the majors and minors in the School of Languages and Cultures.

Motion to approve by Davis, seconded by Hoffman.

**Motion carries 27–1.** The language requirement, with the minor change reviewed by Zanotti, is approved.

Flachs thanked EPC for their work.

Ebarb noted this change has been on the EPC agenda for three years, and thanked all of the committee members who have worked on it.

Senator Will Gray thanked EPC for their work, especially Zanotti and Francis.

## d) Nominating & Elections Committee

Senator Nancy Peterson presented the reapportionment memo for AY22–23, which includes no changes in numbers of senators.

Boling asked no changes are possible with over 40 searches. Peterson explained the calculations use faculty numbers from January 2022 (see 2.02 in the Senate bylaws). So next year’s reapportionment will be extensive.

Boling pointed out it was time to begin seeking a new Senate leadership team, and asked the Senate to consider serving in that role or on CLA committees, all of which will need at least one replacement. Senator Peterson concurred.

Motion to approve by Davis, seconded by Hoffman.

**Motion carries 30–0.** The reapportionment is approved.

Peterson thanked Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Wei Hong for her work with reapportionment.

# 6. New Business

Boling noted the earlier conversation regarding the need to identify Senate leadership for AY22–23 was technically new business.

# 7. Adjourn

Boling suggested adjournment at 4:51pm.

Motion to adjourn by Davis, seconded by Senator Hoffman.

Adjournment was approved by voice vote.