

Minutes: September 14, 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 October 5, 2021.

Roll

The meeting was convened using Zoom at 3:31pm by Senate Chair Patricia Boling, who acknowledged the First Peoples.

Guests: Joel Ebarb, Andrew Flachs, Tammy Hare, Wei Hong, Sorin Matei, Lori Sparger.

Senators absent: Clawson, Kelly, Parrish, Webb.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Boling presented the minutes from the meeting of April 13, 2021.

Motion to approve by Senator Clair, seconded by Senator Hoffman.

The minutes were approved as submitted by voice vote.

2. Chair's Remarks – Dr. Patricia Boling

Boling welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Senate members for their service.

She introduced the new Senate leadership team: herself as chair (Political Science), Senator Rebekah Klein-Pejšová (History) as vice chair, and Senator Bradley Dilger (English) as secretary. Tammy Hare (CLA Office of the Dean) will provide administrative support.

3. Dean's Report

The Dean's report was presented in two parts.

3a. Fall 2021 Enrollment Data

CLA Chief Operating Officer Lori Sparger presented data about 2021 CLA enrollments.

New beginners for 2021 are up to 562. CLA will be investigating the decisions of students who accepted Purdue's admissions offer for CLA by May 1, 2021, but are not in the enrollment census number: did they go to another Purdue academic unit, or another institution?

Certificates, majors, and minors are growing, with much of the growth from Cornerstone and Medical Humanities.

URM enrollment is improving, though we still want to see those numbers grow. Notably, some "hybrid" recruiting strategies implemented for Covid-19 benefit URM recruitment; they will continue. Those include virtual visits and Zoom recruitment events alongside traditional in-

person recruiting events. CLA will be working with new CLA Director of Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives Briggitta August to continue attention in this area.

Sparger praised the CLA team for their hard work helping prospective students see CLA as “a small college experience at a Big 10 university.” She also thanked the faculty for their engagement with recruitment, recognizing the effort involved.

The floor was opened for questions. The Senate had none.

Sparger will share an update as more data becomes available. Her slide deck will be available on the Senate web site.

3b. Dean's Questions & Answers

CLA Dean David Reingold shared more information and answered several questions presented to him before the meeting by the Agenda Committee:

1. Can you tell what is the overall picture with regard to the budget? What do Aspire, Promise, and Center Fellowships look like for AY 2021-22?
2. We're also curious about the recent decision to authorize 40 searches. Can you tell us which departments have received which lines? How many of them are TT and how many are not?
3. What criteria did you use to decide on these hiring allocations? On which data are they based?
4. Are there any plans at present to fill the position of Director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives for the College of Liberal Arts, vacated by Rachel Brooks last February?

Reingold began by praising growth in CLA enrollment, but noted it is not keeping up with the rest of the University.

Question 1: Reingold noted budget news is mixed: \$5 million was returned to CLA, but half of the merit raise pool will be paid by the college. \$3.5 million for 22 new faculty positions was approved. All faculty grant programs (e.g. Engage, Create, Aspire) have returned, though Center fellowships are still on hold. CLA Finance Director Kirke Willing can visit a future meeting to share more details.

Question 2: 40 faculty searches were authorized, approximately 30 tenure-track. So teaching in the college is overall about a third tenure-track, a third lecturer, and a third graduate student. Reingold noted the numbers of clinical faculty are below the campus cap of 15%. Specific hiring decisions across CLA have not been shared before; Reingold will consider that.

Question 3: Reingold named four parameters, as explained in hiring memo sent to heads: (a) trends in undergraduate majors since 2015; (b) faculty-taught undergraduate student credit hours; (c) Cornerstone teaching; and (d) research impact. Enrollment data came from Purdue dashboards.

Question 4: the hiring of DEI director August was announced yesterday. Reingold thanked Executive Associate Dean Joel Ebarb for chairing the search.

The floor was opened for questions.

Senator Johnston asked about the status of the African-American Studies hires promised last year. Reingold is grateful to have Al López as interim head, but is reluctant to move ahead with searches until a permanent head is appointed.

Senator Johnston asked if CLA would commit to hires in 2022–23 if not this year. Reingold said yes.

Boling asked about the rationale for seven hires for Political Science. Reingold cited growth in majors. Sparger noted large enrollment increases in Political Science.

Senator Johnson-Sheehan noted some departments, including English, were allocated no hires. Reingold described the decision-making process as difficult, and noted English has good performance in majors, but a large faculty and staff relative to the rest of the college.

Boling asked if Center fellowships will return. Reingold hopes so, but resources are tight, and described commitments to teaching relief as “risky.”

Reingold will return to the Senate regarding the question of sharing information about hiring across CLA.

4. Old Business

Boling reminded the Senate we have a new committee: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and shared its makeup of faculty, staff, and students. She noted the 2020–21 Senate devoted considerable time to establishing this committee, offering a strong mandate for action.

The Senate should expect this committee to be populated and engaged soon. We should also expect cooperation with new DEI director August and newly appointed Associate Vice Provost for Diversity & Inclusion Rene Thomas.

Ebarb noted that he shared information about the Senate DEI committee with August, and suggested she report to the Senate in Spring 2022. He also observed that a second DEI committee was created as part of the CLA strategic planning process.

5. Committee Member Introductions

Boling presented the rosters of the standing committees of the Senate. There are still some vacancies to be filled, especially with chairs. A roster has been posted on the Senate web site and will be updated as vacancies are filled.

Committee chairs introduced each standing committee and summarized any recent business.

Boling thanked Nominating and Elections committee chair Senator Peterson for her work.

6. New Business

Boling [presented a Qualtrics form](#) the CLA Agenda Committee will be using to solicit suggestions for Senate discussion and action. The link has been added to the Senate web site.

Boling invited the Senate to use the form and share it for broader use by colleagues. The Agenda Committee requests input 10 days before Senate meeting dates.

7. Adjourn

Boling suggested adjournment.

Motion to adjourn by Klein-Pejšová, seconded by Senator Denny.

Adjournment was approved by voice vote.