

Eastern Michigan University
College of Arts and Sciences, College Advisory Council
Agenda: September 7, 2023
STRONG 103

Attendance: Laura McMahon (H&P); Annette Wannamaker (English); Kevin Karpiak (SAC); Katy Greenwald (ENVI); Marianne Laport (Bio); Joe Breza (Psych); Peter Blackmer (AAAS); Julian Murchison (SAC, DH); Nick Smith (Music & Dance); Tom Suchan (A&D); Debbie Ingram (Math/Stat, DH); Jason Gibson (Math and Stats); Biswajit Panja (Computer Science); Deron Overpeck (CMTA); Jonathan Skuza (Physics and Astronomy); Tucker Staley (PLSC); Eric Portenga (G&G); Jim Egge (CAS Dean); Amanda Stype (Economics); Ellen Koch (CAS Dean's Office); Marison Garrido (World Language); Heather Holmes (Chemistry).

I. Jones called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

II. Jones introduced new members: Kevin Karpiak (SAC), Laura McMahon (H&P), Tom Suchan (Art & Design/SAD), Eric Portenga (G&G), Nick Smith (Music & Dance)

III. Laporte motioned and Stype seconded to approve the minutes of April 20, 2023. The motion passed 11-0-5.

IV. Heather Holmes was elected Secretary unanimously.

V. Visitor Jenny Kindred (CMTA) talked about the history of CAS representation on Graduate Council; historically there have been four. Currently, there is only one representative from CAS on the Graduate Council. We are encouraged to nominate representatives from the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.

VI. Visitors Kindred and John Koolage (GE) talked about the Proposal for Learning Beyond the Classroom Refresh. A committee of faculty and students identified benefits and problems with the LBC program as it currently stands. Problems include: LBC is bulky and confusing; it is viewed as something to "get done"; it is hard to track, GE has a significant gap in "integrative learning"; student LBC experiences are inconsistent; there is not always a clear connection to students' future careers. The "refresh" program would change the six categories of LBC to three, all of which would be degree requirements for all students: (1) learning about the university and its various communities by attending eight campus events (e.g., attending a public lecture, attending an art opening); (2) community participation (e.g., being a member of the band, job on campus); (3) high impact "capstone" requirement (e.g., supervised research, study abroad, internships, participating in a conference). Reflection will be built into the LBC program: to receive credit students will fill out Google forms with reflection questions. Reflections will be useful for assessing the LBC program (which has been very challenging in the past). X asked how easy it will be for faculty to get their events, etc. into the system. Kindred and Koolage answered that it will be the students who enter their activities for credit, unless faculty want to advertise LBC opportunities connected to their courses or programs. Greenwald reported that ENVI requires a capstone (undergraduate research or an internship), and that it's a lot of work to organize and track; she warned that to organize this for all students across campus would be a lot

of work. Blackmer (AAAS) stressed the importance of including paid work as community participation.

VII. Elections

a. Grad Council (2-year term): 1 Fine Arts, 1 Social Science, 1 Natural Science, 1 Humanities

- i. 21-23: Natural Sciences - Tamara Loverich (PSY)
- ii. 21-23 Fine Arts - Deron Overpeck (CMTA)
- iii. 22-24 Humanities -
- iv. 22-24 Social Science - Tucker Staley

Laporte self-nominated for the Natural Sciences position. Elected by acclamation.

Jones asked everyone to solicit nominations for a 2-year term for Fine Arts; a 1.5-year term for Social Sciences (starting Winter 2024, when Staley will step down); and a 1-year term for Humanities (starting now).

Grad Council meets third Friday of every month, from 1-3 (but sometimes gets out early). First meeting is September 22, 2023.

b. SRA (meets in fall semesters): 2 Arts, 2 Sciences

- i. 22-24 (Sciences): Heather Holmes (Chem)
- ii. 22-24 (Sciences): Chong Man Chow
- iii. 21-23 (Arts): Jenny Kindred (CMTA)
- iv. 21-23 (Arts): Heather Shouldice (M&D)

Annette Wanamaker self-nominated for Arts. Elected by acclamation. Deron Overpeck self-nominated for Arts. Elected by acclamation.

c. FRF/Sabbatical (meets in winter semesters) 2 Arts, 2 Sciences

- i. 22-24 (Arts): Melissa Jones (WGST)
- ii. 21-23 (Arts): Mary Ramsey (ENG)
- iii. 22-24 (Sciences): Peter Bednekoff (Bio)
- iv. 21-23 (Sciences): Jon Skuza (P&A)

Maggie Hanes was nominated for Sciences, but nomination was withdrawn so as not to have two Biology representatives. Portenga self-nominated for Science. Elected by acclamation.

We still need an Arts representative: we are all encouraged to solicit nominations from our departments.

VIII. Standing Subcommittee Reports

i) Arts (no new business): Jones will continue as chair for first meeting, before new chair is elected.

ii) Sciences (no new business): Holmes will continue as chair for first meeting, before new chair is elected.

IX. Elected Subcommittee Reports

(i) Personnel (no new business): Need one Science representative, one Arts representative. Election will be held next meeting.

(ii) Budget Subcommittee (no new business): Need one Science representative, one Arts representative. Election will be held next meeting.

X. Dean's Remarks

(i) Assc. Dean Koch reported the listed faculty lines approved for this year (still waiting on a FTL request till after contract is settled). The re-organization process is still underway.

(ii) Assc. Dean Egge reported on CAS's Student Career Readiness Initiative. Research on career readiness emphasizes basic competencies for career readiness—the kinds of skills we develop in CAS. But students aren't always able to articulate these skills on resumes and in interviews. We can help to develop these skills at the course level (e.g., telling students about things that are relevant for their resumes); at the program level (e.g., SLOs devoted to career readiness, bringing in career coaches); and at the college level (develop college language and elective courses). Egge especially encouraged departments to bring in a career coach if they haven't in recent years. He especially recommended April Calkovsky.

XI. Stype expressed a note of gratitude that there were now internal locks on classroom doors.

XII. Jones thanked everyone for being here. She indicated that she will be passing on a proposal from the College of Education about increasing required student credit hours, and encouraged us all to look at it closely. Jones and Stype will be bringing the Washtenaw County FEC to come to campus to discuss financial literacy. The EMU Office of Financial Equity will be operating with two financial counselors twice a week in the Student Center; we should refer students who need financial guidance there. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a flyer is forthcoming.

11. Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McMahan