

Collegiate Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 16, 2020, 2:00-3:30pm
Location: Zoom

Attendees: Maxine Grossman, Richard Bell, Bayley Marquez, Elizabeth Honig, Elsa Barkley Brown, Grace Babukiika, Harjit Bhogal, Kathryn Thier, Lisa Nathans, Michele Mason, Nick Joyce, Richard Bell, Robert Burgard, Robert Chiles, Shannon Collis, Stephanie Prichard, Greg Staley, Bonnie Thornton Dill (ex-officio), Daryle Williams (ex-officio)

Dean's Remarks

Dean Thornton Dill provided a few key updates. First, campus is putting together a portal of resources related to the next Presidential election, and our campus Xfinity Center will be a polling center. Second, Winter commencement will be virtual; planning for this celebration has started. Third is the question about post-Thanksgiving course delivery. The plan is to continue with courses as planned; however, students who return to campus after travelling for Thanksgiving will need to receive a COVID test and quarantine for 14 days.

Approval of September 2020 Minutes

The September 2020 Minutes were approved unanimously via voice vote.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Plan of Organization Review

This Plan was approved 13 to 2 last summer (May 20, 2020).

It is important to note that the unit's name has changed since this plan was approved. The Council will send a memo to the unit regarding the need to update the name. This change can be made without needing to resubmit the Plan to Collegiate Council.

MITH Plan of Organization

The Council discussed the revised MITH Plan of Organization submitted to the Council in August 2020. Many of the changes recommended by the Council were made, but a few changes were not made. For example, the plan does not always clarify which students (undergraduate, graduate or both) are being referred to when the term 'students' is used. On page 3, under appointment of the Director, 'students' was mentioned without specifying, and on page 4, there are a couple unspecific references to 'students.' Also, on page 5, Section E.2. there are two periods when there should be one.

The Council will send a memo to MITH with the recommendation to clarify the plan's references to 'students,' to ask whether the MITH intends to have student representation in all committees, and to mention the small typographical correction.

ARHU PCC Report

The Council formally acknowledged receipt of the PCC report received in September.

Learning Outcomes Assessment

At the September 2020 meeting, Council members expressed interest in learning more about Learning Outcomes Assessments, specifically more about what they do and how they work.

Maxine Grossman invited the Council to discuss Learning Outcomes Assessments and generate questions to ask Associate Dean Ralph Bauer and/or Associate Provost Betsy Beise. One member asked if LOAs are mandated and by whom. Another member wondered why the LOA data only seems to remain at unit level instead of serving a greater good. And one more faculty member asked whether the way LOAs are performed adds value. An additional question was raised about the format and structure and how well it fits arts and humanities-related outcomes; these outcomes appear more geared towards non-arts and humanities disciplines.

The Council has invited Ralph Bauer (and might invite Betsy Beise) to join our next meeting and provide us with more history and context for this practice.

Virtual Town Hall with President Pines and Dean Bonnie Thornton Dill

To recap, President Pines joined ARHU for a Town Hall on Wednesday, October 14th. Over 200 faculty and staff joined this event that was recorded and [posted to the web](#). A post-event survey has been circulated to all event registrants; at the time of today's meeting, about 20 questions and comments have been received. A lot of these questions or concerns are not about COVID; rather, they are about leadership on the campus level and how ARHU can support the President and the campus more broadly.

Annual Plenary Planning Conversation

To start the conversation about the Annual Plenary, Daniel Zimmerman suggested exploring loneliness, an important topic at the moment. Another idea is to think about what it means to Keep Creating in this era. A third idea is to reflect on the Greater College Park initiative. One more idea is to think about waiting and when to engage. An additional idea is our current racial moment pertaining to policing, imprisonment and its relationship to the university; if this is the topic, Richard Bell suggested Marc Mauer from the Sentencing Project might be good to invite to speak to our community. The Dean also had a suggestion: The Forum could investigate what a post-COVID world might look like – what might be the new normal?

As reference, prior Annual Plenaries/Forums explored the following topics:

2020: Truth and Lies: Fostering Critical Thinking and Civil Dialogue

2019: Civic Maryland

2018: Arts and Humanities Solutions for Hate, Violence and Other Inappropriate Behaviors

2017: GenEd and ARHU: Where do we go from here?

2016: Working Conditions of Professional and Tenure-Track Faculty

2015: Topic could not be located

2014: The Annual College Forum: National Humanities Alliance

In advance of the next meeting, Lauren will create a Google planning document to share with everyone that will list all the ideas the Council has generated. We will use this document to help the group refine and ultimately select which idea to pursue for the Annual Plenary.

3:35pm: Adjournment.