

Collegiate Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 16, 2021, 2:00 to 3:30pm
Location: Zoom

Attendees: Kathryn Thier, Andrea Frisch, Bayley Marquez, Elizabeth Honig, Elsa Barkley Brown, Francisco Barrenechea, Grace Babukiika, Harjit Bhogal, Jeffrey Lidz, Lisa Nathans, Nick Joyce, Randy Ontiveros, Robert Chiles, Stephanie Prichard, Max Grossman (Chair), Daniel Zimmerman (Vice Chair), Bonnie Thornton Dill (ex-officio), Daryle Williams (ex-officio)

General Education Diversity Requirement Changes

William Cohen, Oscar Barbarin and Cynthia Kay Stevens introduced themselves to the Council.

William Cohen proceeded to discuss the proposed diversity requirement changes in more detail. They did not come with a formal presentation; rather, they shared the report and video ahead of time and welcome any questions. He noted that the proposed required outcome for theory has been revised recently: Now the outcome includes discussion of systemic racism domestically and internationally.

The floor was then open to questions from the Council for William Cohen, Oscar Barbarin and Cynthia Kay Stevens. The first question raised was about how foreign languages relate to the cultural competence requirement and how it fits with the conception of diversity in the report. A key part of a course meeting the cultural competence requirement is that course would help students learn how to negotiate conflicts with other people. Another question was about a little more explanation about how graduate students were involved with the development of diversity requirements. One more question was about whether a lower-level language course could include the cultural competency requirement. The response was that it is possible, but it depends on what students will do specifically in these courses.

Council members continued to present questions. Another question was about the role of campus STEM unit in offering courses that meet diversity requirements. The response was that many STEM faculty members have bought into or are buying into the need to add diversity requirements and adding course outcomes pertaining to diversity. One more question concerned whether an existing Understanding Plural Societies course would need to drastically change in order to meet include the new Understanding Structures of Racism and Inequality. The answer is that most courses have converted to Plural Societies courses have transitioned pretty easily. An additional question was about whether former Understanding Plural Societies and Cultural Competency courses would need to PCC review now that the course categories have evolved. It seems like there will be a more informal review process instead of formal review by PCC.

Professional Language for COVID Delays

Bayley, Nick and Randy assembled a report and presented it at the last meeting. Now it is time to think about the next steps for this report, specifically action items that we would want to send to the units. What can particular units do to help?

Max Grossman shared the guidance on faculty COVID impact statements. One suggestion is that units meet and discuss how to use these statements.

One Council member mentioned that they are wondering whether a COVID statement would help their case and how not submitting a statement should be interpreted. Another Council member said that a better guide for how to compose a COVID statement would be useful.

Looking ahead, all APT subcommittee chairs will attend a charge with the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the Fall. At that time, it will be important to think about COVID's impacts and COVID statements ahead of these deliberations.

Collegiate Council PTK Election Tie-Break

There was a two-way tie for the 5th PTK member of the Collegiate Council. After brief discussion between Dan Zimmerman and Robert Chiles (the current PTK Representatives) about both statements, Heather Bremenstuhl was selected by voice vote.

Vote on February 2021 Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved as presented by voice vote.

Dean's Remarks

The Return to Campus plans have been laid out by the Provost. Please check them out. Note that the University has started a task force on the future of graduate humanities education. Campus Commencement will be held in-person at the stadium, but the College/School Commencements will be held virtually. Departments will have the choice to decide what's best for them. The campus is moving towards requiring vaccination prior to returning to campus this Fall.