

MINUTES
College of Arts and Sciences
MEETING OF THE ALL-COLLEGE ASSEMBLY
October 20, 2015 3:30 p.m.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

Members present: Andrews, Battles, Berven, D., Berven, K., Cheng, Chong, Comartin, Corso, Eis, Escobar, Gooren, Guest, Havstad, Ludwig, Naus, Rapin, Reger, Rigstad, Roth, Smith, Spagnuolo

Members absent: Dulio, Grimm, Martic, Miller, Orces, Pfeiffer, Wang, Wendell

Ex-Officio present: Corcoran, Hitt, Stewart

I. Call to Order

Dean Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes, Meeting of September 22, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2015, were approved unanimously. (Eis, Berven, K.)

III. Presentation of the Marian P. Wilson Award

Sherry Perdue (director of the Writing Center) presented the 2015 Marian P. Wilson Award to Professor Jo Reger for her book *Everywhere and Nowhere: Contemporary Feminism in the United States* (2012, Oxford University Press). In presenting the award, Ms. Perdue commented that Ms. Reger's work tells a story in an artful and skillful style. She said it is methodically written, as well as engaging and richly texturized. She expressed her admiration and extended her congratulations to Ms. Reger for being selected for this year's award, and as Ms. Reger came forward to receive her award, faculty members applauded enthusiastically.

IV. Dean's Remarks

1) Dean Corcoran provided faculty members with an extensive update of the CAS Strategic Plan, summarizing the history of the process of the development of the plan, and providing insights into the CAS Strategic Plan in its present form. He reminded faculty that the process had begun in 2013, with the new president, when each School was charged to develop its own strategic plan. He observed that the OU Mission Statement has been revised during this time as well and added that the Board of Trustees approved this statement. The three goals cited in that statement have set the context for the Strategic Plan, the key idea being that we are fostering student success. Mr. Corcoran said that, for the CAS, the focus of the Strategic Plan builds on three areas identified at the 2014 Chairs' Retreat:

1) The fact that the College of Arts and Sciences is the heart and soul of the university, 2) student success, and 3) community engagement. He noted that the CAS delivers 70 percent of undergraduate credits, which is more than twice as many as any other School. He said that the CAS has funding programs, including one involving student success and learning outside the classroom, and another for community engagement, for which the Credit Union gives \$2500 every year. He said that this academic year began with a Chair's retreat to focus on each of the 3 goals, where department chairs were charged to ask their departments to identify 3 to 5 things in each of the goal areas for their unit. He remarked that a strategic plan should not be specific and should foster

creativity, and he indicated that the CAS Strategic Plan will guide decision-making for the next three years. He presented and elaborated upon the CAS Strategic Plan:

CAS Strategic Plan 2015 (Draft)

The purpose of these goals and strategies is to guide our decision-making over the next three years. In doing so, we will examine our policies, procedures, and actions (at the program, department, and College levels) including: workload, RPT, recruitment/hiring, and performance review. We also commit to evidence-based decision making, using the best available information from scholarly work, other institutions' successful practices, and our own data collection.

Goal #1:

Affirm the centrality of an Arts and Sciences education as preparation for life and work in the 21st Century.

- Champion the Arts and creativity as the engine of our region's future success
- Exemplify a commitment to diversity
- Use the College Theme to emphasize the breadth, depth, and linkage of the disciplines of the College
- Identify and articulate skills and knowledge associated with each major and minor
- Network across campus – with academic and student service units – to inform and collaborate
- Use websites and other forms of communication to inform

Goal #2:

Foster student success through a robust teaching and learning environment with opportunities to engage – including thoughtful mentoring and advising.

- Implement intentional and proactive advising
 - Coordination between First Year Advising Center, College, and academic departments
 - Ensure appropriate placement—both curricular and non-curricular
- Increase study abroad/study away
- Enculturate students into professional activities and behaviors within majors
- Establish and maintain a welcoming and inclusive environment designed to facilitate success for all students
- Honor, recognize and reward student success and faculty contributions to that success

Goal #3:

Advance a strong research and scholarly environment focused on the creative arts, and on the discovery, dissemination and utilization of knowledge.

- Increase scholarly productivity and dissemination
- Increase grants and funding – internal and external
- Develop facilities, resources, and mentorship that enhance research, scholarly, and creative endeavors

Goal #4:

Mobilize our talent and expertise to serve the needs and aspirations of our communities – linking community needs to our educational, creative, and scholarly endeavors.

- Underscore the role of the College as a hub of knowledge for communities – including those defined by geography, demographics, or common interests
- Take expertise – student and faculty – into the community; invite community onto campus to benefit from this expertise, or to form new communities
- Foster public awareness of Oakland’s community engagement
- Develop community relationships for the benefit of the community leading to enhancement of student learning and faculty research, scholarly, and creative work

He pointed out that the Strategic Plan is a path that can be unique and that the process of creating it is connected to examining policies, procedures and actions at the program, department and college levels.

2) Dean Corcoran then announced next year’s CAS theme – “Unity in Diversity” – and noted that Kellie Hay (Communication and Journalism) and Scott Tiegs (Biological Sciences) will chair the CAS Theme Committee.

3) Mr. Corcoran delved into the new merit pay feature of the faculty contract, indicating that there will need to be conversations both within departments and between departments about this change. He noted that workload policies and criteria should likely form the basis of departmental performance rubrics. He indicated that it would probably make sense if faculty members at different levels are evaluated with different metrics. He said that since there will be four pools apportioned with several departments in each pool, there will need to be a measure of alignment with the other departments in each pool, so that a rating of “4” in one department is like a “4” in the others in that same pool. These performance rubrics need to be sent to the Dean’s office for approval in eight weeks.

4) On the topic of the Master Plan, Mr. Corcoran said that on November 9 the consultants will be coming to campus for a town hall style meeting, and he encouraged faculty members to attend.

V. DISCUSSION

Following Dean Corcoran’s remarks there was an opportunity for general discussion. Jo Reger said that if a program within the CAS is not a department *per se*, such as the Women and Gender Studies Program, the director is frequently not included in discussions about the Strategic Plan, and she thinks interdisciplinary program directors should be included. Kathy Moore said that as a result of her work and travels involving the STEM subjects, she has realized that departmental criteria do not necessarily correspond to what is going on in the world today where collaboration is the name of the game, adding that criteria still emphasize the importance of independent research, whereas in the STEM subjects, most work is done collaboratively these days. John Corso asked where the CAS Dean’s office will be housed, and Mr. Corcoran replied that he would consider it being located in the proposed new residence hall so as to be more visible to students and part of their daily lives. Keith Berven remarked that the online Master Plan survey did not seem to address the concerns of faculty as far as campus development was concerned and seemed mostly focused on students.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven (secretary)