

Minutes of the
CAS Faculty Senate Meeting
October 17, 2016
104 Gore Hall – 4 p.m.

Senators present: J. Alcantara-Garcia, A. Barrier, W. Boyer, M. Cotsell, L. Criston, M. Dominguez Torres, L. Duggan, D. Galileo, P. Gentry, M. Greene, A. Hayes, M. Johnson, J. Justice, S. Kaufman, M. Khan, J. Lambe, B. Ley, D. Lopez-Gydosh (for M. Carper), A. Ly, S. McKenna, J. Morgan, J. Oestreich, N. Olabisi, R. Rawat, T. Rocek, A. Sarzynsky, T. Seraphin, J. Serrano, B. Smith, Y. Wang

Excused: A. Selimov, D. Smith

Also present: G. Watson, D. Doren, C. Gaiter, K. Booksh, J. Richardson

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of September 19, 2016, Meeting Minutes, with minor additions to the list of those present. J. Morgan made a proposal to add to the previous month's minutes a transcription of Scott Douglass' remarks of some years ago (2009) regarding RBB and its putative transparency. Dean Watson raised some questions about such a practice, given the ad hoc nature of such public remarks. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee should discuss this issue.
- IV. CAS Senate President's Remarks (Jim Morrison)
 - a. Special Topics/Invitations to Attend CAS Senate Meetings
 1. President Assanis will not be able to attend upon the Senate this semester for a Q/A session, but it is hoped he will be able to do so in the spring.
 2. CAS Diversity Strategy (see below)

3. CAS Advisement and Retention. President Assanis has related his ardent desire that we achieve higher retention rates of matriculated students.
4. CAS Budgetary Implications/Hiring Strategies (see below)
 - b. Promotion and Tenure Committee established, although the election of a chair is still pending.
- V. Dean's Remarks/Douglas Doren - - Diversity Initiative . Deputy Dean Doren and several guests (Colette Gaiter, Karl Booksh, and Jeffrey Richardson) made an extended presentation and answered questions regarding the various initiatives, beginning last spring, undertaken to achieve greater diversity in the College. These plans overlap in good part with those at the University level. No fewer than eight Senators raised a variety of germane questions.
- VI. Old Business - None
- VII. New Business
 - a. Resolution for Ad-Hoc Committee on the College Environment and Faculty-Administration Relations (Stuart Kaufman + Co-Sponsors)
Draft Resolution Establishing CAS Committee on the College Environment and Faculty-Administration Relations

WHEREAS the Faculty Handbook of the University of Delaware calls on all faculty members to protect the university environment; and

WHEREAS the President of the University has recently affirmed the need for improvements in the university environment, with specific reference to the need to improve transparency and trust between faculty and the administration; and

WHEREAS a statement last year by numerous former Presidents of the University Faculty Senate also alluded to declining faculty morale, and a survey carried out by the University of Delaware chapter of the American Association of University

Professors found that 60% of faculty members surveyed described faculty morale as having declined in the recent past; and

WHEREAS the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate provides an important forum for faculty from all academic units in the College to discuss issues of importance to the College, including issues of faculty morale, faculty-administration relations and the College environment;

BE IT RESOLVED that an ad-hoc College of Arts and Sciences Committee on the College Environment and Faculty-Administration Relations be constituted for a period of two years, consisting of 5-7 members including at least one faculty member from each of the 4 current portfolios within the College and a Chairperson, who shall be nominated annually for renewable one-year terms by the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Committees and Nominations and confirmed by majority vote of the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate. This committee shall be charged with collecting information connected to the College environment and atmosphere, faculty morale, and faculty-Administration relations; providing regular reports to the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate with suggestions for addressing such issues as are identified; and providing timely advice to the Dean of the College and the Associate Deans on possible actions to improve the College environment and atmosphere.

Proposed by Stuart Kaufman (Department of Political Science and International Relations)

Cosponsored by:

Lawrence Duggan (History)

Deni Galileo (Biological Sciences)

M.A. Muqtedar Khan (Political Science and International Relations)

Jennifer Lambe (Communication)

John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy)

Alexander Selimov (Languages, Literatures and Cultures)

Much discussion of this proposal ensued. Given the lateness of the hour and the gravity of the proposal, Dean Watson (who had also only just returned from China), moved that action on this motion be deferred. His motion was seconded by J. Lamb and passed by a vote of 25-2.

- VIII. Introduction of New Business. Further discussion of Scott Douglass' remarks concerning RBB (*v. III supra*), and agreement to talk about it some more.
- IX. Adjournment at 5:30.