

Dean's Council Minutes
Dec. 9, 2020

Chairing: Ryan Hinrichs

In attendance: Sandra Jamieson, Jason Jordan, Caitlin Killian, Roger Knowles, Marie-Pascale Pieretti

Guests: Jessica Lakin, Maria Masucci

Link to A&S Faculty Handbook Master Document

1. Dean's Council discussed and approved the minutes of 12-02-20 minutes
2. Agreed to hold an additional meeting to work on Handbook on 12-16-2020.
3. Following up on the Faculty Meeting, Ryan is going to get the specifics on ventilation for classrooms and will evaluate. Dean's Council discussed the issue of faculty participation on DVT-2 (and on related sub-committees) and two members agreed to do so.
4. Deans Council discussed the AY 22 Chair Releases and the possibility of additional course release for "first year as chair" or "strategic investment." DC discussed AY 22, but also reminded the Dean that we need to return to the issue of release for scholarship, especially as some chairs need to put much of their scholarly agenda aside in order to do the work of chair. DC will return to this issue next semester.
5. Provost Jessica Lakin came to the meeting to discuss A&S Budgeting issues and the role of Dean's Council in the process. She shared an overview of the A&S budget, and discussed different models for budgeting at the department and program level, including the benefits/downsides of centralized vs. departmental budget oversight, the role and expectations of budget managers, the need for transparency around what can be included in budgets. Moving forward and as part of planning for the FY22 budget, the Dean and Dean's Council will discuss this further and develop mechanisms and guidelines, including estimates of how much money might be allocated for a range of expenses (ranging from honoraria to student participation at academic conferences).
6. Provost Lakin presented a plan to ensure that the Theological School and A&S Dean's Councils once again play a core role in strategic planning and governance. Beyond the budgetary process, she proposes that some members of each DC serve on APBC (Annual Planning and Budget Council) in place of elected faculty who have no larger institutional responsibility or channels for engaging colleagues. By elevating the DCs in this way, she can begin to build a clearer structure for governance, budgeting, and strategic planning. DC discussed returning to the model where DC members serve on other committee meetings, including APBC, and use that information to inform the work of the DC. Dean's Council members raised the possibility of course reassignment if their workload is to be expanded in these ways.