

Drew University
Minutes of Arts and Sciences Faculty Meeting
November 15, 2019

Present: Sarah Abramowitz, Christopher Andrews, Carolina Arango-Vargas, Di Bai, Alex Bajcz, Brianne Barker, Jeremy Blatter, Barry Burd, Timothy Carter, Adam Cassano, Miao Chi, Graham A. Cousens, Alex de Voogt, Stephen Dunaway, Ferdi Eruysal, Christopher Fazen, Sophia Fortune, Jonathan Golden, Seth Harris, Summer Harrison, Ryan Hinrichs, Sandra Jamieson, Hilary Kalagher, Jason Karolak, Steve Kass, Marguerite Keane, Caitlin Killian, Roger Knowles, Wendy Kolmar, Amy Koritz, Margaret Kuntz, Jessica Lakin, Juliette Lantz, Bjorg Larson, Neil Levi, Jens Lloyd, Yi Lu, Lisa Lynch, Yahya Mete Madra, Maria Masucci, Ziyuan Meng, Rory Mulligan, Philip Mundo, Robert Murawski, Sean Nevin, Nancy Noguera, Emanuele Occhipinti, Mary-Ann Pearsall, Karen Pechilis, Michael Peglau, Muriel Placet-Kouassi, Jonathan Reader, Judy Redling, Jason Roberts, Raul Rosales, Jonathan Rose, Susan Rosenbloom, Maliha Safri, Paris Scarano, Claire Sherman, Bernard Smith, Rebecca Soderholm, Sharon Sundue, Phoebe Tang, Kristen Turner, Merel Visse, Nancy Vitalone-Raccaro, Courtney Zoffness

Others Attending: Matthew Beland, Andrew Bonamici, Michelle Brisson, Michael Fried, Frank Merckx, Candace Reilly, Shawn Spaventa, Greg Townsend, Irina Radeeva, Brian Shetler, Nora Boyer

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 18th Faculty Meeting were approved unanimously.

Dean's Updates: Debra Liebowitz shared a series of accolades as follows:

1. Drew's Teacher Education Program underwent its accreditation review, consisting of a three-day visit by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Debra credited the success of the review to the extraordinary efforts of Kristen Turner who led the team which included Brandie Waid, Nancy Vitalone-Raccaro, Leah Owens and Mike Fried. Thanks also went to Melanie Johnson DeBaufre, Ryan Hinrichs, Maria Masucci and Joanne Montross.
2. Drew won the New Jersey Ballot Bowl competition, with 93% of eligible Drew students registered to vote. Debra thanked Tim Carter for his important and significant mentorship of the Drew Student Voter Project and noted that the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, which tracks voter participation by students, shows that our registration and participation levels far outpace the overall increases to participation nationally.
3. Amy Koritz led Civic Engagement's efforts which resulted in receiving the Platinum Seal for the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. This was awarded to Drew for having a 2018 campus voting rate above 50% in the 2018 midterm election.

4. Congratulations were extended to Judy Redling, Michelle Brisson, and every faculty member who uses Beacon, as Drew was recognized as a Campus of Distinction due to the way we use systems across units. The partnership with Academic Affairs and Campus Life has served to increase retention rates and should contribute positively to 4-year retention rates as well.

5. Special recognition of faculty included Lisa Brenner for completing her term as editor of the journal *Theatre Topics*, Chris Andrews for mention of his research in various interviews and *Money* magazine and Courtney Zoffness, whose essay was published on the Paris Review's website.

Other items of note included:

- President MaryAnn Baenninger and Brett Silver will discuss the University's budget and fundraising efforts at a University Faculty Meeting scheduled for Friday, December 13th in the Craig Chapel beginning at 4:15 pm.
- Launch efforts currently include work on the "Community" part of the Art & Science recommendations. These efforts include:
 - Understanding why students do or do not enroll at Drew and why students don't always feel connected to the totality of the Drew experience.
 - Reworking the way campus organizations plan the calendar/events by creating a comprehensive calendar that will avoid double booking major events; review the mix of events (large/small; topic, etc.); provide a smarter budget that shares services; raise event visibility and provide links to the Launch website and Launch communities. Debra encouraged comments regarding an approach to a comprehensive calendar. Some suggestions regarding events included perhaps creating a "newsletter" and redesigning Drew Today so it's a page of headlines that can be linked to items of interest.
- Feedback and discussions are underway regarding the Drew 110 pilot experience. Debra acknowledged a better job needs to be done in disseminating the changes that are being made, and in sharing them with the community - particularly upper class students and faculty.
- Verna Holcomb, from Instructional Technology, announced that due to the Windows 10 rollout, faculty and staff need to schedule an appointment to update computers by no later than January 14, 2020. See instructions on page 24 of the Packet.
- Faculty members are asked not to make promises to students who come forward requesting hardship aid or money for books. Instead, all requests should be directed to Colby McCarthy in Financial Aid.
- Stephanie Caldwell announced she will be attending Division Meetings to present new, prioritized lists from the Registrar's Office. She is also interested in hearing from Divisions about "pain points" and what can be done to correct them. Additionally, Stephanie informed the faculty that waitlisted students must drop their names from the

waitlist when professors give them a waitlist/cap override and then enroll in the course for the override to function.

Action Items: 1) Revisions to Associates Degree Transfer Policy - Rita Keane 9--10

A question arose as to the logic of removing the words “in the state of New Jersey” from the language presented for vote reading: “*If a transfer student has completed the Associate Degree ~~in the state of New Jersey~~, they will be granted junior status upon transfer to Drew*” (page 9 of the Packet). The question asked was does removing the language mean we are confident that all students enrolling in Drew from anywhere in the United States have the appropriate level of courses and rigor to be granted junior status? Ryan Hinrichs shared that after evaluating some benchmarking from states in the area, data points to there being similar breadth-like requirements. Moreover, the policy still requires the equivalent of one four credit course in each of the following course categories: writing intensive, quantitative and diversity. After some discussion, it was determined a friendly amendment will read “*If a transfer student has completed the Associate Degree **in arts or sciences** they will be granted junior status.*” The revision to the Associates degree transfer policy was called for vote and approved unanimously with the friendly amendment.

Rita Keane reported that CAPC is discussing the new Gen Ed curriculum each week and notified faculty that they can read the minutes of these meetings on U-KNOW. She said it is CAPC’s expectation that they will bring discussion points to Divisions by the end of November and then to the December Faculty Meeting.

2) Faculty Handbook--Divisional Structure – Dean’s Council began its discussion regarding the votes for Divisional structure. These votes will be electronic to determine what do divisions look like and what do divisions do? The first vote concerns the constitution of the divisions, most importantly the consolidation of Divisions III and IV. The second vote concerns pre-faculty discussion groups.

Depending on the versions garnering the most votes, pages 35 and 36 from the Packet will replace pages 37 and 38 (representing text from the current Faculty Regulations). Faculty members discussed: the pros and cons of smaller division meetings and interdisciplinary meetings; they shared the difficulty of attending meetings which conflict with teaching schedules; highlighted the value of speaking a “common language” within Divisions; asked if Division meeting could be open to those who would like to join and could Chairs host separate meetings? After discussion, Dean’s Council announced that a link to an electronic vote would be shared, with results announced at the next Faculty Meeting. Based on the results of the vote, the Dean’s Council will continue its revisions of additional sections of the Faculty Handbook.

Reports: Curricular Report – Rory Mulligan noted that one of the places where ART 320/Digital Animation appears in the Art major (in the Upper Levels credit section) did not have a strike through. Rita Keane responded that since Art 320 is being dissolved as a course and the new course number for Digital Animation is Art 251, all incidences of Art 320 should disappear as the course is renumbered.

Enrollment Management – Bob Herr reported that undergraduate applications are trending slightly higher (4%), over last year’s numbers, with early decisions up modestly as well. He said the visit numbers are very strong and feedback from them has been positive. Bob looks to the numbers as good harbingers and shared his goal of an incoming First Year class of 425, along with 60 transfer students. Bob spoke of several strategic changes that he hopes will contribute to these successful goal of increasing yield:

- 1) Increasing the dollar amounts offered in merit scholarships to be competitive in the marketplace, combined with an adjustment to need based aid and non-merit aid to offset the increase in money offered.
- 2) Early Action notifications will go out earlier to compete with our peers’ deadlines
- 3) Regular decisions must go out earlier. Only Lafayette notified students later than we did last year. This year’s goal is to send the letters out early March.
- 4) Utilization of a client relationship solution called SLATE, that is considered the industry standard in admissions and advancement. Bob reported that as of this time last year, only 284 applications were designated “completed” in the Admissions’ Office. This year, the number is 680, allowing the department to read applications earlier and better communicate with students.
- 5) Students who apply SAT/ACT test optional were previously precluded from consideration for our highest scholarships. This will no longer be the case.

Bob thanked the faculty for all their help with recruitment efforts, particularly on weekends and with outreach to students. In turn, Debra offered her appreciation to him and his staff for their tireless work and new strategic initiatives.

Announcements: Library - Andrew Bonamici requested that students be made aware the Library will be open until 2 a.m. starting Saturday December 7th for Reading Days through the end of Final Exams. Due to staffing limitations and low use, he reported the Library will close between 2 am- 8:30 am. The Library's chat service is generally available until 9 pm, and electronic resources are available 24/7.

Andrew also shared that a memorial gathering for Bruce Lancaster will be held on Wednesday Dec 4th from 4:00-7:00pm in Drew's Pub to honor Bruce Lancaster’s long and meaningful connection to Drew University, its Library, students, alumni, faculty, and his co-workers. Andrew asked that attendees please bring a favorite Bruce memory and perhaps food to share.

The Drew Review- Jens Lloyd requested faculty members stay alert for noteworthy, scholarly writing that could be submitted for publication in the *Drew Review*.

CIC Teaching Interfaith Understanding: Debra Liebowitz encouraged faculty members to consider a seminar offered for faculty members by the Council of Independent Colleges (see pages 28-33) for this opportunity. Lodging, most meal and reading materials are provided. The nomination deadline is January 17, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Trish Turvey.