

CLAS Council
May 4, 2021
Zoom, 2:00 p.m.

Present: Ayala, M., Aragon, R., Cradock, K., Pasko, B., Starr, C., Swift, S., Yan, J., Bond, G. Stokes, R. and C. Erwin

1. “May the Fourth Be With You.”
2. Core Staff – For the next round of GO Bonds, they seem to have reconsidered priorities and will request funding for SAS. The board requested updates on RSC and we should have a design animation to share shortly; there have been issues with the continuing escalation of construction costs. They discussed potential influx of funding from the federal level to the state (and then to the university) for higher education as part of pandemic recovery. We are not sure yet about guidelines and/or restrictions for use of those funds, although we will undoubtedly prioritize helping students. It looks like virtually all AA ER&R requests will be funded, in part due to savings from ER&R funding last year. Money will be available July 1, as usual. Commencement planning is moving forward – 65 faculty members will attend and about 375 students.
3. Re-opening – for summer, we will continue as we have for spring, since virtually all classes are online; they continue discussions on museum operations for summer. SHROC will remain open as it has this spring. GSSC will be open to the public as of June 1. Faculty and student employees will continue to have full access to academic buildings but they will not be open to the public. (Continue to post phone numbers for deliveries or other people who need to request building access.) We will still observe all public health strategies for pandemic mitigation. For fall, we are looking at “normal” operations contingent upon pandemic situation and public health orders from the state. An ad hoc Faculty Senate re-opening committee has brought up questions that the administration is answering. Emails have been sent out to inform students about and encourage them to come to immunization events held on campus. Continue to keep communication open about hand washing, mask wearing, etc. Policies need to be consistent across campus. As of right now, there is no state mandate for students being vaccinated before returning to campus.
4. Fall and summer registration. As compared to last year, summer registrations are up by 15% in both HC and SCH. Fall registrations have slowed down a bit and are currently up 4.5% in HC, but down about 1% in SCH, indicating a higher percentage of part-time students. **Please continue reaching out to students who have not yet registered, in order to get them enrolled for fall classes.** There are concerns about low enrollment in the gen ed courses, particularly in biology and chemistry. MA will ask to see if she can find an answer.
5. Program Review 2021-2022. They will soon finalize the list of programs up for review next year, taking into consideration the Viability Review process. Faculty would prefer to know sooner, than later.
6. VPAA shared updated information on recruitment efforts with RNL and IPEDS data. ENMU’s faculty salaries have seen improvements and are holding their own against comparable institutions.
7. HLC criterion team leaders’ drafts are coming due.
8. Building Access protocols – please remember to get new id cards, submit Excel spreadsheet, fill out key request for anyone who hasn’t previously been approved for exterior door access (and specific request for selected person to retain physical key); return keys/fobs and get id cards activated before your building’s rollout. Concerns about power outages and key cards not working to allow employees entrance to the buildings. The dean’s office has heavy duty plastic ID card badge holders if anyone needs one.

9. From SBL: if any of your programs are talking to other institutions about 2+2 articulations, please keep her office in the loop. Also Comm Services is asking for all web info to be submitted in PDF format. We have had most of our gen ed courses recertified and are leading the state in those efforts.
10. There is likely to be a retirement come-and-go donut extravaganza event for John Erdmann May 14th from 9-11. More info will follow once plans are formalized. Will be held in the GSSC foyer.
11. Recruitment funds: people have been notified about approval for proposed expenditures. Please make sure to spend approved funds from fall and spring. Go ahead and spend and keep track of responses, impact, and other data. Let us know if you need funding for upcoming initiatives
12. Remember, as of summer we will be all Canvas, no Bb. **Please encourage your folks to engage with the Canvas training workshops, the earlier the better.** Not sure of date, MA will find out and let everyone know. Ask individuals to see who is having issues so we can set-up some training. Please let MA know sooner rather than later.
13. For **Retention**, it is especially important to reach out to current students – but most especially new majors -- and engage them in the major and discipline-related student orgs through virtual strategies. Be creative! You could have faculty lecture series or reading, virtual games and events.
14. Resource faculty evals: remember that we need to do them after their first semester teaching for us, and then yearly after that. **For all faculty and staff evals, the policy book says you cannot discuss them with the employee without first discussing with second-level supervisor (prior to this it said Area Executive Administrator)**
15. Please emphasize the importance of checking and responding to emails in a timely manner, acting on student concerns promptly, and keeping folks in the loop up and down the chain (transparent communication for non-confidential matters). Due process is dependent on timely action. All communications to VP should go through chair and dean (director, if appropriate). Concerns should be resolved at the lowest level possible before going up the line. If you have policy questions, ask.
16. **Please provide search updates: for positions left unfilled or announced retirements.** Make sure that you are moving forward as quickly as feasible on searches. Ask faculty considering retirement to notify you ASAP so that the department can prioritize justification/approval process.
17. Please communicate to your faculty that if they represent CLAS on any committee, they need to report back to CLAS — preferably through their department chair to CLAS Council.
18. **Exit interviews and graduate tracking** – look ahead to coming year. **This may be key in the flagging study, too.** Also, for program review and assessment, template for tracking faculty accomplishments by program/department.
19. Staff are required to be back on campus June, 1, 2021, when are 12-month faculty due back to campus? When do WFH agreements expire? MA will find out and let everyone know.