Minutes
Meeting of the Faculty
November 12, 2014, 3:00 p.m., 1000 Lincoln Hall

Dean Barbara Wilson called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Approximately 37 faculty were in attendance. The minutes from the April 16, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously. Dean Wilson announced that Anna-Maria Marshall was appointed the Parliamentarian. The Executive Committee submitted Professor Douglas Simpson as the Secretary of the Faculty. No other nominations were presented and the faculty unanimously approved the appointment. The handout listed the Report of the Nominations Committee- updates since Spring 2014 Meeting. The names listed as additions to standing committees were approved unanimously.

Dean Wilson presented a college update. LAS welcomed 58 new faculty this year, 21% underrepresented minorities, 38% were women, 15% were tenured. We have 21 faculty searches this year. The campus identified 3 cluster areas for hires: Understanding groups and cultures; Water and land sustainability; Cancer. LAS is well represented in the first 2 groups. The clusters were a way to package existing searches, the provost will provide 25% in startup funds for hires within these areas.

LAS welcomed 2074 freshmen this fall. Our college is working to build a strong sense of community for our students. 19% of the freshmen were from underrepresented minorities, down from 21% last year. Campus wide, the number of African American students has dropped. LAS will work on providing scholarships for students. Our international freshmen student population is 16%. We have 641 transfer students this year, roughly the same as last year.

Some units are working with the Dean’s office to establish caps on enrollments. The College will be searching for a Director of Recruitment who will lead our efforts in increasing the rate of enrollments by students accepted for admission.
The Dean has been visiting academic departments since early fall. LAS has 37 academic departments and 13 visits have occurred so far. These visits have been fascinating and a very good learning experience for everyone involved. Departments were asked to share their strategic priorities at these meetings along with challenges and how LAS can assist.

Facilities- LAS submitted 9 requests to campus for funding. 7 of those were approved. $23 million will be spent on these projects. The Provost office and LAS will each provide $1.5 million on upgrades to the Ethnic Studies buildings.

Fundraising efforts are gearing up. Only 7.4% of alums give back to the campus. There is tremendous room for growth in fundraising. Fundraising will be an important piece in funding capital projects such as NHB, Chem Annex, and Altgeld Hall. The college will also fundraise for names professorships and student scholarships.

Dialogue Across Campus- the first few months of her Deanship have been challenging and frustrating due to the events on campus and the campus process surrounding Salaita. There are national boycotts occurring that have resulted in speakers cancelling talks, departments postponing searches and reviews. Some departments have had votes of no confidence in the chancellor, some departments voted in support of the chancellor. Chemistry and Philosophy have begun a dialogue and discovered they have more in common than they thought. The Dean has been hosting get-togethers with Executive Officers on the topic - a time to discuss the issues, to listen and learn, to facilitate an understanding. The Dean welcomes conversation on the topic and realizes there are no easy answers.

Budget- We have a balanced budget this year. We have spent a significant amount on facilities. Some departments have spent into their reserves to pay start-up funds. The College reserves have been shrunk due to a 2 year increase in faculty and a funding loss due to a decrease in majors and IUs. Changes in State leadership have brought about uncertainties like the tax increase may lapse. In addition, the pension reform debate is still ongoing.

Setting Priorities- The Dean would like to formulate a steering committee to discuss what the College priorities should be. This process is expected to begin in the spring semester.

The Dean asked if anyone had questions.

Question 1- What is LAS’s role in the proposed College of Medicine? The Dean responded that if the College of Medicine is approved, LAS will be involved. The Provost has told us that LAS will be a critical member of the college. To be approved by the Board of Trustees, the proposed College of Medicine must be different from the one at UIC, so the proposal is for an engineering focused college of medicine. LAS is not involved in obtaining approval for the new college.

Question 2- What is the College’s commitment to American Indian Studies?
The Dean responded that she has had discussions with Prof. Warrior. AIS is pursuing departmental status. The College is supportive of AIS.

Question 3- Thank you for the discussion on Salaita. The situation has been a serious attack on departments deciding on who their colleagues are. I suggest an open discussion on the Salaita case.

The Dean responded that there have been open discussions on campus- large groups of 100 or more people cannot discuss issues. She feels that smaller group dialogues provide a better atmosphere for hearing and discussing issues. She welcomes thoughtful discussion on ways for LAS to host discussions.

Question 4- We need a way to provide a larger scale discussion- workshops, possibly roundtables.

The Dean stated that she welcomes thoughtful discussion on ways for LAS to host discussions.

Question 5- What is the status of the report on the procedural process?

The Dean said a Provost committee is reviewing the process and asked Professor Jean-Philippe Mathy, a member of the committee, to elaborate. Prof. Mathy said the committee is still working on the report, reviewing the Statutes and other documents.

The Dean continued that the LAS Executive Committee met with the Chancellor and had an open discussion. The Engineering Executive Committee has asked to meet with the LAS Executive Committee to discuss many issues.

At this time, faculty in the audience began discussing the need for a dialogue.

Comment 1- The racial climate on campus needs to be discussed in light of many issues: enrollment of African American students is down; the Salaita case. LAS needs to find a way to have a conversation on how these issues intersect.

Comment 2- the college as a whole needs a forum on what happened and how to reverse what has been done.

Comment 3- At a recent national meeting, colleagues and graduate students approached me [the faculty member speaking] to ask what is going on at your university. We need a public forum to discuss the issues.

Comment 4- The college will not have one opinion on this case. If a large meeting were held it may be cathartic for those who oppose the Chancellor's decision, but ultimately the meeting would not provide any type of resolution.

Comment 5- After the Senate report is issued, it would be a good time to discuss the procedures that were taken. I am unsure we all truly understand the details of what happened.

Comment 6- Need to discuss how this affects our students and untenured faculty.
Comment 7 - perhaps a survey can be crafted and sent to units to ask how these issues have affected your unit, things like searches, grad applications, discussions at professional conferences, cancelled talks, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.
LAS Fall Faculty Meeting

November 12, 2014

College Updates

• Faculty Hiring
• New Student Data
• Departmental meetings
• Facilities
• Dialogue across disciplines
• Finances and budgeting
• LAS Looking Forward: Setting Priorities
Faculty Hiring

- 58 new faculty started this year
  - 21% URM
  - 38% women
  - 15% tenured
- 21 new searches authorized
- 3 cluster hires
  - Understanding groups and cultures
  - Water and land sustainability
  - Cancer

LAS New Students: 2014

- Freshmen
  - 2074 (target = 2100)
  - URM: 19% (down from 21% last yr)
  - International: 16%
  - First-generation college: 24%
- Transfers
  - 641 (roughly same as last year)
LAS New Students: 2015

• Looking at caps on several majors
  – Actuarial Science
  – Chemistry
  – Chemical Engineering
  – Economics
  – Math
  – Physics
• Director of Recruitment

Department Meetings

• 37 academic departments
• Visited 13 so far
• Questions:
  – What are 3-5 strategic priorities?
  – What are your unit’s areas of strength?
  – What are your challenges and how can LAS assist you?
  – Who are your national aspirational peers and why?
Facilities

• Provost Matching Fund Program
  – 7 of 9 LAS proposals funded
  – Chemical Lab. Safety & Infrastructure Upgrade
  – English Bldg. Specialized Faculty Space
  – Math IL Geometry Lab Relocation
  – MCB Center for UG Advising/Instruction
  – SIB Morrill Hall lab renovation (themes)
  – Total = $23M

• Ethnic Studies Buildings
  – 5 buildings
  – $3M (includes matching funds from Provost)

Facilities

• Fundraising
  – Natural History Building
  – Chemistry Annex
  – Altgeld Hall
**Dialogue Across Disciplines**

- Salaita Case
- National boycotts
- Departmental challenges & votes
- Philosophy <-> Chemistry
- EO sessions

**Finances & Budgeting**

- Overall balanced budget 14
  - Significant facilities investment in FY14
  - Some units spent into reserves
  - Nearly all units well positioned at year end
Finances & Budgeting

• Challenges for FY15
  – Significant depletion of college reserves due to 2-year increase in faculty (n = 30)
  – Funding loss due to decreased majors & IUs
  – Continued need for facilities investment

• State Uncertainties
  – Tax increase may lapse
  – Pension reform

LAS Looking Forward: Setting Priorities

• Questions to Consider
• Steering Committee
• Process
• Timeline
Questions & Discussion