

**Arts & Sciences Chairs Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 10, 2020**  
**9:00-10:30 am, via Zoom**  
**Minutes**

In attendance: Vandana Kohli, Phil Hampton, Chanda Cunningham-Spence, Stephanie Guerrero, Mary Adler, Liz King, Christina Smith, Frank Barajas, Sean Anderson, Kimmy Kee-Rose, Andrea Grove, Geoff Buhl, Erich Fleming, Dana Baker, Jaime Matera (for Chair Delaney), Jose Alamillo, Sonsoles de Lacalle, Michael Soltys, Blake Gillespie, Antonio Jiménez Jiménez, Greg Wood

Absent: Colleen Delaney

**I. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes were approved for October 20 and November 3, 2020.

**II. Information Items**

*Working from Campus & Return to Research: Spring 2021 Requests*

AD Hampton thanked Chairs for submitting faculty requests using the provided templates and stated that these will be moving forward for review/approval.

*Update on new NTTF Budget process from Provost's office*

Manager of Academic Resources (MAR) Cunningham-Spence shared an important update regarding a change in the budget allocation of non tenure-track faculty funds. In accordance with the newly outlined process implemented by the Provost's office, programs will now receive their budgets in two separate installments rather than a yearly allocation/lump sum distributed from the Dean's office. The goal of this change is primarily to fund based on actual expenditures. The challenge this presents, as voiced by several Chairs, is that we continue to face peculiar enrollment changes and as a result it has been difficult to forecast budgetary needs. Chairs expressed frustration that this was a move backward in the progress made toward programs having independence in their management of their budgets and their ability to have budgets drive schedule planning. Chairs also raised the question of whether this change in the allocation of program budgets will be permanent, to which MAR Cunningham-Spence answered that this remains unknown.

Dean Kohli shared that she will try to develop an incentive structure for departments/programs that have done a good job with managing their resources. She hopes to establish a structure that would allow the school and departments to keep at least a portion of their budgetary resources in program financial accounts.

*Reassigned Time Taskforce*

MAR Cunningham-Spence informed Chairs that the taskforce for Faculty Reassigned Time will be reconvening soon and that it remains open to volunteers; she will distribute the taskforce's membership and a short recap of the work that has been done so far.

### III. Discussion Items

#### *Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Council (AABAC) Update*

As a member of the AABAC, Chair Anderson shared that there are no concrete updates at this time as the committee just held its first meeting, but that the members have asked for more consistent meeting times and to convene more often between now and December.

Currently, the group is also deliberating the role of the committee and have discussed a potential shift in its purpose due to recent changes in upper administration; however, this change should ultimately be determined and led by the new Provost. As of right now the question remains over whether the input the committee provides regarding budgetary prioritization and needs is intended to serve as guidance in making formal decisions/changes, or whether the committee's feedback is seen as informal feedback. Another area of concern was the information provided to the committee, specifically, the amount (and quality) of institutional data and budget documentation they are provided. Chairs raised a question regarding the anticipated budget cut in Academic Affairs that has been estimated at roughly \$100,000 and whether this number is an accurate reflection or if we may face higher cuts due to enrollment fluctuations.

#### *Tenure-Track Lines & Cluster Hire*

Chairs also asked about the funding that was previously set aside for thirteen tenure-track lines that were interrupted last year, and whether these funds can be utilized to move forward with hiring as they were already set aside for this purpose. Academic Senate Chair Greg Wood reported that the Provost was open to reviewing mission-critical expenses. Chairs noted that the faculty searches were mission-critical and indicated that they would write a letter to Dean Kohli indicating the critical need to fill these positions. MAR Cunningham-Spence will distribute the historical document which captures the 2018-2019 tenure-track line requests to support Chairs in crafting letters.

A final question was raised about the status of the tenure-track cluster hires dedicated to the "Racial Justice – A Commitment to Action" campus initiative. Chair Barajas spoke on behalf of the committee currently looking at what qualifications best meet the designated standards. One idea being considered it to focus on hiring of a single scholar with Africana Studies expertise this year and hiring of the additional two faculty over the next couple of years. Another question/area of concern requiring further attention is a clear definition of what field(s) of scholarly research and expertise meet the standards of the initiative and the pending decision of what departments or school will house these faculty hires.

With many unknowns remaining, the group agreed to continue the conversation surrounding cluster hires at the following meeting. Dean Kohli expressed her unwavering support for Africana Studies and thanked the cluster hire committee for their hard work.