



**Arts & Sciences Chairs Meeting**  
**October 3, 2023**  
**9:00 – 10:30 AM**  
**J. Handel Evans Conference Room**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Jose Alamillo, Stacey Anderson, Dana Baker, Raquel Baker, Geoff Buhl, Rainer Buschman, Heather Castillo, Stephen Clark, Trina Darakjy, La Sonya Davis, Sonsoles de Lacalle, Colleen Delaney, Erich Fleming, Blake Gillespie, Phil Hampton, Alison Harris, Jacob Jenkins, Kimmy Kee Rose, Vandana Kohli, Marianne McGrath, Lindsey O’Conner, Kiki Patsch, Greg Wood

**Absent:** Bryan Swig, Brian Thoms

**I. Meeting Minutes**

*August 22 and September 19 minutes:* Minutes from the August 22 and September 19 meetings will be reviewed at the October 17 meeting.

**II. Information Items**

*Learning/Living Learning Communities (LC) - Kathleen Klompien (Time Certain 9:05-9:25):* Faculty Director of Learning/Living Communities Klompien announced that 84% of first year students were placed in LC in the Fall 2023 semester which exceeds President Yao’s goal of 70% placement. She noted a concern that UNIV 150 courses would be removed as anchor courses for LCs. She encouraged Chairs to submit proposals for new LCs in December with the review completed in January 2024.

Chairs presented the following collective points regarding greater LC participation:

- More resources to incentivize chairs and faculty to participate in LCs considering the workload associated with teaching an LC and supervising peer mentors.
- A scheduling template to support Chairs in scheduling LCs and avoid course conflicts.
- Cooperation from administration to ensure that students will remain in the LC.

Dean Kohli committed to raising these issues with Provost Avila.

*Facilities Update:* This topic will be addressed at a later meeting.

**III. Discussion Items**

*WTU:* This topic will be addressed at a later meeting.

*Tenure Track Lines:* Dean Kohli noted that the Provost's Office is considering various funding sources for tenure track lines.

#### **IV. Chairs' Items**

*Changes to RSCA & Provost Travel Funds:* Chair Delaney requested a discussion to address changes to RSCA award policies and noted that these changes were put into effect after award applications were submitted. She indicated that faculty view research travel differently than the Provost's Office and the RSP Office. She shared examples of fieldwork that often involves renting vehicles to transport equipment. The requirement of presenting a paper at a conference is inconsistent with the needs of junior faculty who attend a conference to collaborate with researchers instead of presenting a paper.

*Changes in ways Financial Aid define scholarships:* Chair Gillespie announced that the Financial Aid Office has changed the way federally funded scholarships are dispersed. He noted that students now receive these scholarships as an hourly wage rather than overall payments. Chair Gillespie indicated that scholarship payments as hourly wages reduce the amount of award money students receive and can negatively impact the number of hours students can work in other student assistant positions that they might hold. He noted that Financial Aid is looking into the matter and students are upset and considering voicing their concerns to the media.