

Arts & Sciences Chairs Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
9:00-10:30 am, Madera 2381
Minutes

In attendance: Dean Vandana Kohli, Chanda Cunningham-Spence, Cindy Wyels, Stephanie Guerrero, Sean Kelly, Mary Adler, Liz King, Christina Smith, Dennis Downey, Blake Gillespie, Nancy Mozingo, Ivona Grzegorzczuk, Michael Soltys, Lynette Landry, Frank Barajas, Kiki Patsch, Beatrice de Oca, Antonio Jimenez Jimenez, Neal Fisch, Holly Godden

Absent: Sonsoles de Lacalle

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Both sets of meeting minutes approved for May 7, 2019 and September 3, 2019.

II. Information Items

Emergent Budget Requests

Chanda announced the deadline for this year's emergent budget requests tied to GI 2025. Chairs are encouraged to work with her for assistance on submitting requests; items related to student success will be highly favorable. Emergent budget requests do not include faculty lines and should instead focus on those initiatives that enhance student success, which may include requests for equipment, software needs, staffing, etc. Chanda asked that requests be submitted to the Dean's Office by September 30 so they may be reviewed prior to submitting to Academic Affairs by the October 7 deadline.

Spring Transfer Orientation

Cindy reported that the upcoming dates for Spring Transfer Orientation are November 22 and 23. Each program will be assigned one of the two dates (more information to come).

NSF Program Officer

John Parker, Program Officer in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at NSF will be on campus Monday, October 7, 2019 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. to speak to faculty from Anthropology, History, Political Science, Psychology, Communication, and Sociology about funding opportunities in NSF.

Kohli Family Medical Leave

Dean Kohli announced that she will be taking family medical leave during the following (tentative) dates: October 21 through November 5. Kohli asked Chairs to be mindful about her absence dates while planning on-campus interviews for faculty searches.

III. Discussion Items

Two Factor Authentication (Neal Fisch)

Neal Fisch, Director of Enterprise Services and Security, informed Chairs about the rollout of two-factor authentication on campus. As a measure of increased security and protection against the increased amount of phishing attempts, two-factor authentication will act as an additional level of account protection for all services that are accessible under myCI. Neal hopes to have two-factor authentication implemented beginning in November, with all employees utilizing the service by the end of December. Neal has tokens to provide to staff as one way of using a second method of security; other options include downloading the Duo Factor app on mobile devices which sends push notifications in order to verify your identity. Users are able to use the token, the mobile application, or phone call verification, but there must be more than one method available to verify one's identity. Questions raised by Chairs whether two-factor authentication will work internationally and with VPN, to which Neal confirmed. He also offered to meet with small groups of faculty to roll out in person based on Chairs' preference.

Wellness Promotion & Education (Holly Godden)

Associate Director of Health and Wellness, Holly Godden, provided a brief presentation overviewing the services provided by the Wellness, Promotion and Education (WPE) program. Holly also outlined various issues that may manifest in the classroom surrounding student wellness and ways that faculty can provide support and/or refer students to available on-campus resources. Trained peer educators are also available to provide mentorship to students as well as customizable in-class presentations on a variety of topics surrounding health and wellness. Holly emphasized WPE's comprehensive approach to wellness, which highlights one's spiritual, mental and physical health. She encouraged Chairs to reach out to her for opportunities to collaborate or if they are ever interested in having WPE provide a class presentation. See PowerPoint slides for additional details.

Formation and Dissolution of Departments

Kohli asked the Chairs if they had any concerns regarding the document that was provided at the last meeting. The group voted in favor of utilizing this document to move programs to independent department status, starting with Chicana/o Studies and Anthropology this year.

IV. Chairs' Items

Disability Accommodations and Support Services (DASS) – Faculty Duties & Rights

Chairs raised a question surrounding faculty rights in regards to academic freedom in the classroom. With the current political climate, faculty have expressed concerns about recording devices and the potential danger they create. Kohli emphasized that she will try and ensure that DASS verifies that recordings are the only way to accommodate a student, or indicate alternative accommodations. Kohli emphasized the importance of being ADA compliant while balancing faculty concerns. Additional Chairs voiced experiencing negative interactions with DASS. Kohli informed the group that the Vice President of Student Affairs will be attending the next chairs meeting and she will ask Dr. Yao to address DASS issues along with Academic Advising.

Departmental Budgets and Funding for Lecturers

Question raised about budgets and what the policy is surrounding targets. Kohli clarified that programs are expected to meet targets with the funds that they have been allocated. We want to move in a direction which recognizes that resource utilization is a multi-faceted conversation with many moving parts. FTES and SFRs are utilized to provide a projection of how many non-tenured faculty (NTF) will be needed to hit the set targets, but there are other elements to keep in mind such as class size and the correct allocation of workloads.

Chairs expressed discontentment with how decisions are being made and implemented without faculty input or consultation; normative practices being established and Chairs uncertain where they align with boundaries of faculty autonomy. For new Chairs, Kohli clarified three separate issues which have created a source of tension amongst chairs: a memo surrounding class size that was distributed in the spring; a budget memo; and a memo regarding workload. Chairs also expressed frustrations surrounding the cultural shift. The faculty feel administration has no concern for how people are being treated. For example, faculty once had an opportunity to voice their concerns and they feel this is no longer the case.

Kohli acknowledged the Chairs' concerns and once again suggested that these were matters related to shared decision making. She indicated that she would hold a special meeting of the Chairs with the Senate Leaders and the Provost. But Kohli emphasized the need to move forward and remain focused on the ultimate goal of supporting students. Kohli reminded the Chairs that the Provost is trying to bring the university to conform with CSU rules and policies. The school can still maintain its values and establish a unique character within CSU policies.