

Arts and Sciences Chair's Council
Monday August 27, 2018
1:00-2:30
Faculty Colloquium, Old Main

Present: Bruce Mattingly, Mary McGuire, Seth Asumah, Vaughn Randall, Patricia Conklin, Gregory Phelan, Paul van der Veur, Kathleen Burke, Andrea Harbin, Wendy Miller, David Barclay, Randi Storch, Alexandru Balas, Paulo Quaglio, Kevin Halpin, Andrew Fitz-Gibbon, Brice Smith, Robert Spitzer, Joshua Peck, Herbert Haines, David Dickerson

Absent: Vince DeTuri

Administrative Update:

Bruce thanked chairs for attending the awards celebration and indicated that he would like to present awards, during department meetings, to recipients who had unable to attend.

The number of religious holidays recognized by the college has increased significantly. There are no longer holidays on which the college prohibits exams and quizzes. Instead, faculty are asked to make sure that when a student misses class for a religious holiday, s/he is able to make up missed work. Greg Phelan mentioned that making up science labs is difficult.

The proposed commencement schedule included some of the department combinations that chairs had requested. After his review, Bruce asked that other combinations chairs had requested be accommodated. The final schedule should be available in a few weeks.

Programs up for review this year are Chemistry, English and Geography.

The recently ratified UUP agreement includes a retroactive one time salary bonus of \$600 for all faculty members. In addition, faculty may apply for merit based discretionary salary awards (DSA) based on their achievements in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Self-nominations are due to department chairs on 9/21/18 and to deans on 9/28/18. Chairs should write a paragraph for each nominee explaining their decisions as to categories recommend, highly recommend or most highly recommend and forward the original nomination to the dean. DSA awards will be one time allotments in 2018. However, beginning with the 2019-2020 round of nominations, future DSA awards will be added to base salary.

Moffett renovations are expected to begin in spring semester. Randi Storch brought up the need for discussions on changes to Old Main spaces, following Moffett renovations and the relocation of several departments from Old Main to Moffett. Bruce agreed that they were important and should begin this year.

Bruce announced that the Arts and Sciences curriculum committee has a vacancy and called for nominations.

Mary McGuire will be serving as chair of psychology for the fall 2018 semester.

New Business: Andy Fitz-Gibbon as chair of Academic Faculty Affairs asked for discussion on differentiating between criteria for continuing appointment and promotion. The handbook provides basic criteria for promotion, but not for continuing appointment. Discussion followed. Several departments have established specific criteria for continuing that differ from promotion criteria. Some chairs were concerned that the official language didn't include creative works.

Several departments reported problems in computer labs with slow or non-working machines. Similarly, faculty members have found that the classroom computers are exceptionally slow this fall, cutting into class time.