**CLAS Committee Reports 2016/17**

**CLAS Faculty Council**

**Faculty Council Members:** Anne Caillaud (MLL), Arthur Campbell (MUS), Michael Henshaw (BIO), David Kurjiaka (BMS: Chair), Steve Tripp (HST: Fall), Heather Van Wormer (ANT), Randy Winchester, (CHM), Pei-Lan Tsou (CMB), Xandra Xu (PSY: Fall) Libby Wheatley (SOC: Winter), Jennifer Gross (PSY: Winter), Tonya Parker (MOV: UAS Liaison).

**Ranking of New Faculty Requests:** Early in the summer of 2016, council met to rank requests for new faculty lines from CLAS units. Using the information provided by Institutions Analysis and unit ranking of the positions, the committee ranked requests. The rankings sent to the Dean reflected the programmatic needs of the unit (as best council could determine them). Council appreciates units whose rankings reflect unit demands (doing otherwise makes it difficult for council to support). The provost’s office funded 28% of the new faculty lines requested by CLAS (just over half of the positions council strongly supported).

**CLAS Service Award:** After awarding the first CLAS Outstanding Unit Commitment to Service Award to Anthropology at the beginning of the Fall semester (for the 15-16 academic year), council had a discussion about the nature of the award. The unit earning the award was given a plaque to post in their office (the plaque would travel each year to a new award winner) and another plaque hung in the Dean’s office with the names of the units who earned the award. In addition, the title of the award was modified to CLAS Unit Contribution to Governance Award. Faculty council will present the COUCS award for the 16-17 academic year at the CLAS beginning of the year meeting.

**2016 Out of the Box and Beyond the Margins - Connecting with the modern student:** Council spent a significant amount of time determining the appropriate outcome from the OOTB 2016. The discussion in the OOTB covered a wide range of student issues and faculty concerns that were difficult to encapsulate in one product. In the end, it was decided that a resource for faculty to connect with the appropriate dept on campus for a particular student/faculty concerns would be most helpful. This resource [webpage](http://www.gvsu.edu/clas/helping-students-resource-chart-706.htm) is available though the CLAS website.

**Elections**: The committee held 4 elections during this academic year (2 for Affiliate Faculty and 2 for Tenure line Faculty). This was the first year an election was held for Affiliate faculty members to elect a representative to the University level Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC). As council was not made aware of the election until after the Winter 2016 election, 1 tenure line faculty member and 4 affiliate faculty members were appointed to a seat for the Fall 2016 semester.

**Fall**: A special election was held to fill seats on 5 committees (3 CLAS committees: sabbatical and workload replacements). The Affiliate and Tenure line elections were run synchronously. Nominations provided faculty with choices for each committee (more nominees than seats) meaning all seats were filled. About 47% of those eligible voted in the Affiliate and Tenure line elections.

**Winter**: The full election for open seats on the 24 University and College committees was held in the Winter (71 seats available including replacements). There was a new University committee (Equity and Inclusion Committee) added to the election (seats were staggered over 3 years). After nominations were extended, at least one person was nominated for each seat. While 47% of Affiliate faculty voted in the Winter election, 65% of Tenure line faculty voted. Following the election, 30% of CLAS Tenure line faculty are engaged in committee service. Only 1 sabbatical replacement seat was not filled in the election. This was an exceptionally strong demonstration by CLAS faculty of their engagement in committee service.

The election included faculty voting on Bylaws changes for CLAS Faculty Governance and Personnel Committee. The Bylaws changes will be discussed below. The Bylaws were approved by 89% of the faculty that voted.

**CLAS Personnel Committee Bylaws:** Previous chairs of council started a conversation with CPC chairs about changes to the Bylaws to eliminate: 1) the Fall election for CPC alternates (it is in the Administrative manual) and 2) the CPC vote to allow CLAS Faculty Development Committee to act as the Sabbatical Review Committee. In addition, CPC made some changes to reflect how they currently function. The changes were approved by CPC and then by Faculty Council. The Bylaws were sent to faculty in advance of two 2 fora (no CLAS faculty attended). In the Winter election, the CPC Bylaws were overwhelmingly approved.

**CLAS Faculty Governance Bylaws**: The previous council had revised Faculty Governance Bylaws in a manner that ensured voting ended before Spring break. However, the version they started with was not the one approved in 2011 by CLAS faculty. The current council made changes to the approved Bylaws. Those changes were to address: election timing, alignment with revised CPC Bylaws (no Fall election required for CPC alternate and CFC can appoint a person who ran in the election for CPC to a seat on the committee) and the Affiliate Faculty election. These changes were approved by council and made available to faculty. In the Winter election, the Faculty Governance Bylaws were overwhelmingly approved.

**Administrative Manual and CPC**: In order to change CPC Bylaws, the Administrate manual had to be altered: 1) the composition of CPC and 2) the Dean’s office representative on CPC (Associate Dean in an ex officio no voting role). These changes were submitted to ECS by the Provost’s office and recently approved by UAS.

**2017 Out of the Box – Collaborative teaching:** The 2 sessions of OOTB were well attended by CLAS faculty (17 and 30). The discussions generated were informative. Council will compile the information from faculty to generate an outcome that supports collaboration within the college. Approaching it from both an informational perspective (letting faculty know what is possible along with the Challenges and the Rewards of collaborative teaching).

**Dean’s Advisory function:**

**Alignment of CLAS Standards for Promotion and Tenure**: The Dean asked council to address 2 alignment issues with the CLAS Standards for Promotion and Tenure: the information faculty are required to present to support teaching effectiveness/excellence (CLAS indicated faculty ‘may’ submit peer evaluations and a teaching reflection whereas University Standards indicate they ‘must’ include the evaluation and reflection) and early tenure and promotion guidelines (CLAS Standards did not address early tenure and promotion). Leaving them ‘as is’ was not an option as it put CLAS faculty going up for tenure at risk of meeting the CLAS but not University Standards (changes need to go into effect in the Fall of 2017). Thus, the goal was to make changes that did not ‘raise the bar’ (aside from the changes required to align with the University standards) so they could be approved by council and implemented in the Fall of 2017. After a first round of changes to the Standards, feedback from unit heads and the chair of CPC were used to generate a second round of changes. CLAS faculty council voted to approve the realigned Standards. The approved Standards were sent again to unit heads (all CLAS faculty) and the Chair of CPC for a last opportunity to modify if there were concerns.

**Faculty Advisory function:**

**Concerns from School of Communication:** Recently, council was asked by the School of Communication to determine whether the CLAS Faculty Governance Bylaws were followed in the realignment of the School. Council is in the process of addressing this question and will generate a response.