**To: All CLAS Faculty**

**From: Colleen Lewis, Chair, 2011-2012 CLAS Faculty Council**

**Re: 2011-2012 Faculty Council Annual Report**

**March 27, 2012**

The Faculty Council began the year in May 2011 by ranking the department search requests and sending those rankings on to Dean Antczak for consideration. During the summer members of the Faculty Council began the process of organizing and planning the Fall 2011 Out-of-the-Box events.

In Fall, 2011 with the generous support of the Dean’s office, the CLAS Faculty Council presented three interactive Out-of-the-Box events that focused on the issue of “Thriving Throughout a Sustainable Career: Getting Your Groove Back”. As there have been multiple articles in the Chronicle related to life after tenure and the challenges related to the dynamic balance of academic life in terms of teaching, scholarship and service, we decided that the Out-of-the-Box workshops could most productively focus on this topic for faculty in CLAS. Many resources and opportunities exist to promote a successful career but more can be done within the college by developing flexible, creative, innovative, and cooperative solutions to common problems related to workload and career support. We created an interactive workshop for faculty with the support of multiple centers on campus. Bob Smart as Executive Director for the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence spoke on opportunities related to scholarship that are on campus and available to all faculty. Christine Rener and Dana Munk from the PEW Faculty Teaching and Learning Center shared the many resources available to develop and improve teaching at all stages of an academic career as well as opportunities to reward excellence in teaching. Sue Sloop in Human Resources is a Work Life Consultant at Grand Valley and spoke on the many resources available to faculty to support us with issues that may affect work or home life. Lindsay DesArno also from Human Resources spoke on the many opportunities to improve health and wellness for faculty including the fitness facilities, personalized health coaching and health and fitness challenges. Kim Monaghan spoke about the importance of career mapping and career coaching for faculty. Mark Schaub from the Padnos International Center spoke on the many opportunities available to faculty related to traveling overseas, teaching abroad and Fulbright Scholarships as means of enhancing our academic lives. Shaily Menon and Amy Masko shared strategies and ideas regarding their sustainable careers. The workshops focused on exploring resources to promote and nurture workload and work-life balance. With help from Cory DiCarlo, Giuseppe Lupis, George Lundskow, Nancy Mack, Gabriela Pozzi and Scott Stabler, the workshops provided resources, faculty worked through simulations, and participated in several different kinds of discussion about successful and sustainable careers. Evaluations suggested that faculty had greatly enjoyed the discussions and had benefitted from the resources. With the help of Monica Johnstone, Director of Communications for the CLAS Dean’s Office, the Faculty Council put together a website (http://www.gvsu.edu/clas/resources-for-getting-your-groove-back-363.htm) with resources and links as an ongoing follow-up to the OOTB series. The Faculty Council tentatively plans to focus next year’s OOTB series on service and all its ramifications.

In addition to the OOTB workshops, The Faculty Council followed up on the memo we had sent to ECS asking that they review the procedure related to the repeat policy which would hopefully relieve the registration issues surrounding key courses which fill early with students who are repeating the class. The result of this memo was that this was forwarded to the University Curriculum Committee for review. This issue has been tabled in order to determine whether changes in the College of Health Professions have corrected this problem.

The Faculty Council met with Roger Gilles, Chair of the General Education Committee to determine the changes that will occur to the current general education program. This proposal was based on much hard work over many years and will have direct impact CLAS as many courses that were part of the “Themes” will no longer be required. As a replacement to “Themes”, two upper level “Issues” courses will be required for all undergraduate students. Many of these courses are taught in CLAS and will have a direct impact on workload. The Faculty Council had a lively discussion related to this topic. Associate Dean Gary Stark gave a thorough presentation on the University Budget. The information was enlightening and interesting to the committee. Currently Faculty Council has been engaged in a lively discussion related to proposed changes put forth from the Faculty Personnel Policies Committee (chaired by Kurt Ellenberger) related to reducing the number of contract renewals from two to one. Many important issues were brought forth and a memo is currently being developed.

In addition to these issues, the Faculty Council continues to work hard to make sure that the CLAS elections run smoothly and CLAS faculty are well-represented on all CLAS and University committees. In the fall we ran a special election for alternates to the CLAS Personnel Committee. Currently the election for governance committees is ongoing. Emails were sent to each unit listing the number of people who are engaged in service, this facilitated an increase of nominees from many departments. The CLAS nomination ballot closed on Friday, March 16th with a record number of nominees and the election is currently in process. The results will be announced on April 6th. Engaging faculty in the governance process is a critical responsibility for CLAS Faculty Council and each member of this committee works hard to achieve this goal.

2011-2012 CLAS Faculty Council: Cory DiCarlo (CHEM), Colleen Lewis (MOV), George Lundskow (SOC), Giuseppe Lupis (MUS), Nancy Mack (MTH), Gabriela Pozzi (MLL) and Scott Stabler (HST)