In Attendance: Marlene Belfort, Alexander Buyantuev, Kristen Corbosiero, Duncan Cumming, Lisa Fuller, Adam Gordon (Recorder), Colin Henck, Lan Huynh, Joshua Isralowitz, Gregory Lnenicka, Oleg Lunin, Matthew Matsaganis, Karin Reinhold (Chair), Alexandre Tchernev, Dan S. White, Oscar Williams, Edelgard Wulfert, Baris Yoruk, Liming Zhou.


1. Refreshments Served

Refreshments were served starting at 3:00 p.m.

2. Call to Order

Chair Reinhold called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

3. Approval of Minutes for 11/12/2014 Council Meeting

Chair Reinhold announced that, in the interest of keeping the meeting on schedule, the process of approving the meeting minutes for November 12, 2014 would be conducted via email.

4. Chair’s Report

Chair Reinhold reported that the Council of Chairs had not met since the last CAS Faculty Council meeting. She noted that there is an upcoming February 6th deadline for Conference and Journal Support Award application materials to be submitted to Department Chairs.

5. Senate Report

Alexandre Tchernev gave the following report from the University Senate Meeting of Monday, November 17, 2014:

The items on the agenda included the President's Report, the Interim Provost's Report, and the Senate Chair's Report, followed by the reports of the various committees, and by New Business.

President Jones reported on the provost search and on the continuing discussions with Albany Law.

The report of Interim Provost Timothy Mulcahy discussed the financial implications of the significant drop in enrollment for next Fall semester, which could lead to a shortfall of about $4 million at the end of the academic year. He stressed that this shortfall can be managed, provided it is not a regular occurrence,
and stressed that long term measures need to be taken to ensure that future enrollment predictions are more accurate, and that significant efforts need to be invested into increasing future enrollment.

In response to some of the comments and suggestions expressed by respondents in the Shared Governance Survey, Interim Provost Mulcahy also presented the Senate with a letter from President Jones requesting that the Bylaws be revised so that ex-officio members of the senate do not have voting privileges.

6. Dean’s Report

Dean Wulfert began with a Report on the State of the College, followed by a presentation of the Dean’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching.

A. Report on the State of the College

Dean Wulfert commented on the search for a new University Provost. She noted that the search committee which she co-chaired with Professor Acker, CCJ, recommended six candidates to the President, who selected four finalists for consideration. The Dean encouraged faculty to attend the public fora for the four finalists and to then give feedback on the candidates via the website set up for that purpose.

The Dean reported that her office had drafted a CAS strategic plan composed of specific objectives and action steps consistent with the President’s four “stakes in the ground” that he articulated in his 2014 Spring Speech to Faculty. The plan was constructed by extracting information from the departmental strategic plans submitted to the College, thanks in large part to the efforts of Assistant Dean Marie Rabideau. This college-level strategic plan has been vetted through the Council of Chairs and the Academic Planning Committee of the Faculty Council, and will be sent to all CAS faculty and professionals for comment in the Spring semester.

The Dean announced the building schedule for the Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (E-TEC). Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2015 and complete in December 2017 or shortly thereafter. The building will then be outfitted for its planned occupants and will be ready for occupation in May or June of 2018. The planned occupants of the building are the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC), the Department of Physics, a subset of the Department of Chemistry, along with various administrative offices and some classrooms.

Dean Wulfert provided a summary of enrollments at the University and the College for the Fall 2014 semester, stressing that the University’s and the College’s budgets are dependent on enrollments. Undergraduate enrollments were at 99.6% of the target at the University as a whole, but only 96% of the target for the College. The Dean noted that in 2010, 47% of all undergraduates at the University were in CAS majors, but that this has dropped to 40% over the past two years. Ph.D. enrollments were at 102% of the target across the University, but only at 98% of the target for CAS. Master’s degree enrollments were at 91% of the target across the University, but only at 77% of the target for CAS. The Dean said that she and Kathy Gersowitz intend to meet with administrators, particularly Kevin Williams, to renegotiate more realistic targets for Master’s enrollments, but she noted that this may negatively affect the college budget.
Dean Wulfert announced that Susanna Fessler is heading a committee that will examine the potential expansion of online offerings in CAS. She noted that the college would like to be able to offer programs to attract new students, not only traditional undergraduate students, but also employed people who already had Bachelor’s degrees but were looking for further professional/career development (e.g., certificate programs). The Dean noted that with a nation-wide trend towards more online offerings, and with Open SUNY allowing students to take courses from across the SUNY system, CAS needs to embrace online education to maintain its enrollments.

Dean Wulfert announced that there were 23 new hires in CAS starting in September 2014. Sixteen of these were 2020 lines, five were CAS lines, one was an FTP line (in three years, CAS must pick up the cost of this line), and one was a Centrally Allocated Resource (CAR) line (in two years, CAS must pick up the cost of this line). The Dean noted that Interim Provost Timothy Mulcahy has agreed to a change in the CAR system. Previously, 30% of vacated lines were paid into the CAR pool. Now, 10% of each returned line will go back to the CAR pool, and an additional 30% will be paid into the pool for one year, but that amount will be paid back to the college the following year. The Dean pointed out that this is preferable to the old system; however, it remains to be seen if this system will remain in place when the new Provost is hired.

The Dean noted that in the past year, eleven CAS faculty had been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, two faculty who had been hired as Associate Professors had been awarded tenure, and two faculty had been promoted to Full Professor, as follows:

Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure:
- Elise Andaya (Anthropology)
- Sheila Curran Bernard (History)
- Joanna Dreby (Sociology)
- Michael Ford (Psychology)
- Kir Kuiken (English)
- Pan Li (Biology)
- James Lilley (English)
- Aaron Major (Sociology)
- Kendra Smith-Howard (History)
- Ryan Torn (DAES)
- Baris Yoruk (Economics)

Received tenure (hired as Associate Professor):
- Aiguo Dai (DAES)
- Liming Zhou (DAES)

Promoted to Full Professor:
- Rongwei Yang (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Evgeny Dikarev (Chemistry)

Dean Wulfert noted that several CAS faculty and staff received Chancellor’s and/or President’s Awards for Excellence this year, as follows:

Chancellor’s AND President’s Awards for Excellence in:
• Academic Service – Tony DeBlasi (East Asian Studies)
• Teaching – David Strait (Anthropology)
• Professional Service – Kathy Gersowitz (Dean’s Office)

President’s Award for Excellence in:
• Research & Creative Activity – Charles Hartman (East Asian Studies), Igor Lednev (Chemistry), and Michael Sattinger (Economics)
• Teaching (FT) – Jeannine Chandler (History)

Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in:
• Research & Creative Activity – Cristian Lenart (Mathematics & Statistics) and Marina Petrukhina (Chemistry)
• Adjunct Teaching (inaugural year for this award) – Rocco Ferraro (Geography and Planning)

In addition, two CAS faculty were appointed to Collins Fellows, a recognition for University faculty “who have exhibited extraordinary devotion to this University and the people in it over a sustained period of time”:
• Steve North (English)
• Kevin Williams (Psychology)

Finally, several CAS faculty were named Fellows of national societies, received major fellowships, or received other major honors this year:
• Lance Bosart (Chemistry), named Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
• Eric Block (Chemistry), named Fellow of the American Chemical Society
• Jeanette Altarriba (PSY and Vice Provost for UE), named Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science
• Phyllis Galembo (ART), awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship
• Jim Collins (ANT), awarded a Fulbright Fellowship
• Samantha Friedman (SOC), awarded a Fulbright Fellowship
• Bruce Svare (PSY), awarded a Fulbright Fellowship
• Virginia Eubanks (WGS), awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship
• Dan Keyser (ATM), awarded an Edward N. Lorenz Teaching Excellence Award from the American Meteorological Society
• Johanna Lodono (LACS), awarded a Princeton-Mellon Fellowship in Architecture, Urbanism and Humanities, from Princeton University and the Mellon Foundation
• Bob Gluck (MUS), awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Regarding the Senate Shared Governance Survey, Dean Wulfert noted that the survey had approximately a 10% response rate, which indicates suggests that the findings cannot be considered representative of the population. Regarding the President’s proposal to modify the bylaws of the Senate so that ex-officio members would not be allowed to vote, the Dean noted that this will require a meeting of the entire Voting Faculty with a quorum of 30% and a two-thirds majority requirement to pass the amendment.
Dean Wulfert then thanked the CAS Faculty Council Chair, Karin Reinhold, and all of the council members for their work over the past year. At this point she opened the meeting to questions.

In response to a question regarding current CAS enrollments in relation to previous years, the Dean said that undergraduate enrollments in the sciences have increased (Biology is now the largest major, and there has been huge growth in Human Biology, a major housed in the Department of Anthropology), but that there has been a large decline in the humanities, and a lesser decline in the social sciences. She also noted that the demographics of the country are such that there are fewer students entering college than in previous years, and that this is an issue for universities across the country. In response to a follow-up question regarding enrollments versus credit hours, the Dean noted (and K. Gersowitz confirmed) that most courses in the college were three-credit courses, with some four- and five-credit courses, and that the pattern of decrease is the same whether one analyzes enrollments by head counts or credit hours.

When asked about enrollments in the School of Business, the Dean noted that their enrollments were down slightly. She noted that the School of Business has selective admissions criteria that restrict enrollments to students meeting certain requirements beyond those of the University as a whole. The Dean stressed that she was not arguing for increasing enrollments by lowering standards to accept more students, but that departments need to be creative in recruiting more students. In response to a follow-up question about what happens to students who don’t have the qualifications to get into the School of Business, the Dean said that they may apply to other majors in the University or end up going to other universities.

A final questioner noted that the University website appears to be highlighting material that follows national trends in online education and other areas, but that CAS seems to be “invisible” on the website in this respect. The Dean agreed that there were major inadequacies in the University website, and said that she has spoken with higher-level administrators about the importance of improving the website.

**B. Dean’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching**

Associate Dean John Delano presented the Dean’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching. A call was put out on October 20th for nominations, and five nominations were received. Nominees were evaluated by a six-member committee made up of previous recipients of teaching awards in the areas of sustained excellence in teaching and supervision of students. The award was presented to Associate Professor of History, Carl Bon Tempo.

**7. Committee Reports**

**Nominating (from Alexandre Tcherney):**

Mathias Vuille was elected as a replacement University Senator representing CAS at-large.

**Tenure and Promotion (from Greg Lnenicka):**

The committee has reviewed five cases. There are three more cases scheduled for December and four cases will be acted on in the spring.
Faculty Development (from Liming Zhou):

L. Zhou thanked the members of the committee for their service this semester. The committee is currently working together with the Academic Planning Committee to review the 96 CAS Travel Award applications.

Academic Planning (from Lisa Fuller):

The Committee on Academic Planning has reviewed the draft Strategic Plan as requested by the Dean. It was the consensus that we did not need to bring the plan (or our brief comments) to the full Faculty Council. In addition, we have partnered with the Faculty Development Committee to review the CAS Travel Award applications. Applications have been sent to reviewers and meetings have been scheduled for the week of Dec. 8-12 to make the final determinations.

Academic Programs (from Marlene Belfort and Matthew Matsagani):

Since the beginning of the semester, the committee has reviewed 33 proposals, representing a mix of new courses, revisions to existing courses, changes in prerequisites for existing courses, and modifications to minors or majors. Most actions were approved immediately, whereas several proposals required revision in response to questions raised by the committee and communicated back to the departments by Matthew Matsaganis. Generally, the CAFs for changes to majors and minors have required more time and effort and have involved considerable modifications, although the departments have been generally cooperative. Four additional proposals are still under consideration by the committee.

Academic Support (from Duncan Cumming):

The committee had nothing new to report.

8. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

9. New Business

There was no new business to address.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by L. Fuller and seconded by A. Tchernev. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Adam Gordon