

Arts and Sciences Department Chairs

Meeting of December 13, 2017

1:00-2:00pm, 555 Lerner Hall

Minutes

David Madigan, Executive Vice President and Dean of the faculty, opened the meeting at 1:10. This meeting directly followed the A&S Faculty meeting at 12:00-1:00.

David Madigan began with brief announcements:

- **Chairs Meetings**
 - The recent format for Chairs meetings has been a chairs-only meeting followed by a Chairs Meeting with deans and administrative staff. Going forward, the order will be reversed, with the chairs-only meeting following the Chairs meeting with deans and staff. David also raised the idea of not including the administrative staff in the chairs' meeting with the dean. Today's meeting excluded staff.

- **Minutes**
 - Minutes will be kept of chairs meetings.

- **Current tax bill before congress**
 - A number of provisions contained in the pending tax bill are viewed as anti-higher education. The upper administration is fully engaged in this issue.

- **Chair compensation update**
 - At the end of the spring semester, a chairs compensation proposal was put forward by PPC to EC. The main concern of the EC is not that the proposal is too high or too low, but rather a clear rationale for moving to this new system was lacking.

- **New Dean of General Studies**
 - David introduced [Lisa Rosen-Metsch](#) as the next Dean of School of General Studies beginning January 1, 2018. Lisa, who is an alumna of GS, is currently the Stephen Smith Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School. David thanked the outgoing Dean, Peter Awn, for extraordinary work as Dean of GS during the past 20 years.

Maya Tolstoy, PPC chair and Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, provided the following reminder:

- **Exemption from Teaching Duties (ETD) for birth mothers**
 - It is recommended that chairs exempt women from teaching during the semester in which they give birth.

David Madigan provided an update on the following:

- **Uris Hall Committee**
 - David provided an update on the thinking of the Uris Hall Committee. One idea that has emerged and been supported by the entire committee is to use Uris as swing space. Rather than focus entirely on Uris, this might be a unique opportunity to re-imagine the Morningside Campus. It is envisioned that the tower of Uris would be used as swing space to house departments while their current space is being renovated. The lower floors of Uris could be assigned for other purposes. The current projection is that Uris will become available at the end of 2021.
 - Kathryn Johnston, Professor of Astronomy, presented a “renovation plan” for astronomy’s space on the 13th and 14th floors of Pupin. Astronomy’s exercise could be a model for other departments to re-imagine their space.

Mark Mazower, Ira D. Wallach Professor of World Order Studies, provided the following overview:

- **Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination**
 - The [Institute](#) has a new Fellowship program. The Institute, which is located in Paris, will open its doors in fall 2018. The fellowship is open to Columbia faculty and the application deadline for the first cohort of fellows is January 8, 2018. Further information about the nature of the fellowships can be found at their website. The center will help fellows find housing and public school for fellows and their families.

Respectively submitted,

Richard Davis