

Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2017  
12-1 pm, 555 Lerner Hall

David Madigan thanked everyone for attending the faculty meeting. As a matter of first business, a Secretary of the Faculty had to be elected.

Ellie Hisama nominated Rose Razaghian to be the Secretary of the Faculty.

Andreas Wimmer seconded the nomination.

The vote was taken and Rose Razaghian was elected Secretary.

David Madigan thanked the President and Provost for attending and welcomed them to weigh in. His goal has been to support shared governance. Columbia is not a corporation and everyone has to work together as a community. That is done through a set of committees, such as PPC and EPPC. Ordinarily, PPC runs the meetings but Maya Tolstoy is out of town. The PPC takes up a set of policy issues each year and works closely with the Executive Committee. It is the primary vehicle by which governance is shared. It is very strong and highly functional. There are other committees as well, such as the EPPC and JFAB which are crucial for governance. David Madigan thanked all those who participate in these committees. Without faculty and administrators these committees cannot function. They serve the Arts and Sciences well but they can certainly be tweaked as needed.

David Madigan introduced Fred Harris, the new dean of the division of the Social Sciences, and Sarah Cole, as the new dean of humanities, who will begin her term in January. Peter deMenocal continues as Dean of the Natural Sciences. This year, Arts and Sciences is beginning a review of science facilities with the help of an outside firm to come up with a master plan.

Those who attended the spring faculty meeting have heard about the new capital campaign. Arts and Sciences needs to be actively engaged in the campaign. Something that Lee Bollinger is keen to have happen. The planning exercise that was lead by Alondra Nelson and Sharon Marcus over the past few years feeds directly into the campaign.

There is a committee looking at use of Uris Hall. The charge for the committee is going to broaden and the committee will have a few additional members. Updates will be provided about its deliberations at future faculty meetings.

The catalyst grants were launched and several projects were funded. The goal is to fund more of these projects in the coming year and have a second round of proposals.

Arts and Sciences hires a lot of faculty, including lecturers and Professors of Professional Practice, with about sixty hires last year. The focus has been on diversity in the faculty and there has been progress. But diversity is nowhere near where it should be. The lack of diversity among the faculty translates into a lack of diversity in ideas. The problem became clear last year. While the applicant pool is more diverse, there is less diversity among those candidates invited for a campus interview. Last year, there was diversity training for search committees and there will be more efforts to get a more diverse set of candidates to campus.

PPC member Ellie Hisama spoke of PPC's work on behalf of Maya Tolstoy. The other members this year are Maya Tolstoy (DEES), Richard Davis (Statistics), Mamadou Diouf (MESAAS), Eleanor Johnson (English and Comparative Literature), Brendan O'Flaherty (Economics), Pablo Piccato (History), Seth Schwartz (History) Maria Uriarte (E3B), Gareth Williams (Classics), and Andreas Wimmer (Sociology).

PPC has three goals for the year. First, the report from the Faculty Equity Committee in the natural sciences will go out this term. Surveys will be going out to faculty in the other two divisions. The hope is to complete the project in the spring. Second, PPC is going to form a lecturer committee with co-chairs to be announced soon. Third, PPC is going to make recommendations about officer compensation. There is a report about chair compensation and PPC will turn to compensation for directors of undergraduate and graduate studies next. In addition, PPC plans to cover student wellbeing, campus climate, university support for childcare and schooling, and housing. Ellie Hisama asked the faculty to let PPC know of any other issues that should be addressed.

Michele Moody-Adams spoke about the work of EPPC, which is an advisory committee that makes recommendations. There are three faculty who are joining EPPC this year: Angelo Cacciuto (Chemistry), Madeleine Dobie (French and Romance Philology), and Seth Schwartz (History) as the PPC representative. EPPC's work is done by subcommittee which are ad hoc. EPPC has worked on course evaluations, teaching innovation, teaching evaluation, class size, and instructional staffing and course scheduling. The subcommittees will be coming around to talk to various groups to share their recommendations. The most important work that is on EPPC's docket is to create and get up and running a subcommittee on global education following up on the recommendations of the Task Force for Global Education in the Arts and Sciences. Patricia Grieve has agreed to chair the subcommittee. It is wonderful that students are on EPPC and participate in the discussions.

Betsy Blackmar brought up issues with Canvas and asked how faculty can be mobilized to take this on.

David Madigan responded that he would like to meet with Betsy Blackmar to understand the issues and also to have EPPC look at the bigger issues.

He then introduced Suzanne Goldberg to talk about DACA.

Suzanne Goldberg explained that the Office of University Life is a hub for student resources. The office also shares pressing information and develops forums for discussion, Campus Conversations, such as one held recently about Charlottesville where three faculty spoke. The office is also convening two university task forces one on Gender Based Misconduct Prevention and the other on Race, Ethnicity, and Inclusion.

Suzanne Goldberg provided background on DACA. In 2012, after Congress failed to address the problem of undocumented immigrants, President Obama took the executive action to provide relief from deportation to those who had come to the US before fourteen years of age and had been in the US for a certain time. About 800,000 people received DACA, which protected them from deportation. But the protection is only temporary for two years at a time. In addition, and important for our students, it provided work authorization. DACA also permits that dreamers, those granted DACA, can leave the US to go abroad and then reenter the US.

On the first day of classes this term, the Attorney General said that DACA would be reversed. There has been significant bipartisan support for dreamers. Congress now has to pass a law to address this. Anyone who applied for DACA relief up to September 5 would have their application processed, but no applications will be processed after that. Anyone who needs to be renewed can be processed from now until March. The renewal is for two years. If the protection runs out by March then they need to apply before October. If DACA runs out on or after March 6, renewal is not possible. There is pressure on Congress to act.

Columbia is doing a lot to support students and welcomes your ideas. Since threats to DACA have come up, a working group has been created to work with DACA students as well as students from student organizations. As a practical matter, anyone affected can get help through Columbia Law School which provides screening for every undocumented person. There can be other paths to legal status. There is also a law firm that is providing pro bono individual representation to students. In addition, a group of foundations based in California have come forward to pay for the renewal so that it is free for DACA holders, including students at Columbia.

Students, of course, are under tremendous stress and the fear of deportation can be very stressful. There are support groups for these students and there is one person who works with undocumented students. A webpage on the Office of University Life website reinforces that all students are welcome and includes links to outside organization.

For students who lose their work authorization, students can receive financial aid for the money they do not receive through their schools.

Patricia Dailey asked whether this means that employees can lose their jobs after March 5.

Suzanne Goldberg explained that the university does not keep records. The university, like all employers, is forbidden to employ people who do not have legal authorization to work in the US. The hope is that some solution will come about. There is tremendous support in the business

community. There is a vision of the US that includes immigrants. There are a lot questions about people who are not eligible for DACA and what to do about them.

Patricia Dailey asked whether sanctuary is no longer a status with which we are working.

Suzanne Goldberg explained that sanctuary means different things to different people. Rather than use the word which means different things in different contexts, there have been policies in place. Immigration officials are not allowed on campus without a warrant; people's immigration status is not shared with the officials.

Page Fortna asked how many students are affected by DACA.

Suzanne Goldberg replied that because records are not kept, her office reached out to every admissions officer and student affairs deans. At Cal State the number of dreamers is much larger and the UC system has filed a lawsuit.

Greg Wawro asked if there is more that can be done to reach out to students and what faculty can do for them.

Suzanne Goldberg advised that it's best to inform students of the resources available. The number of DACA students in the Arts and Sciences is small, but there is no reason not to explain which resources are available. Students can go to the website or the app, which has the added benefit of providing discounts.

Ana Maria Ochoa explained that she is the faculty point person in her department. CSER is holding an intercampus faculty meeting about what a sanctuary campus is, which is an effort that began last year with NYU. The Music Department organized a meeting for graduate students to provide them with information which was very helpful, including the Office of University Life website.

Suzanne Goldberg said that students should not be asked their immigration status as many undocumented students do not want to share this information. On the website, there are stories about the lives of undocumented persons. Students are encouraged to email the office but they can also call and be connected to the right people. If faculty have ideas about campus conversations, please send her an email.

David Madigan thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rose Razaghian