Faculty Council
Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Faculty Council Charge Summary/Scope of Work

According to the CAS Governance Document:
"The Faculty Council represents the interests of CAS Faculty to the Office of the College Dean. The Council shall include the College Dean, Campus Deans, the Associate and Assistant Deans, and those Faculty and staff members elected to represent their colleagues from all campuses within the College" (p. 4).

"The Faculty Council provides a primary forum for the dialogue between CAS Faculty and the Office of the College Dean. The Faculty Council shall include the College Dean, Campus Deans, and those Faculty and staff members elected by CAS Faculty to represent them within the College" (p. 8).

"The Faculty Council advises the College Dean on any matter of concern to CAS, including budget and policy. It addresses issues brought to it by the College Dean and the College Dean's representatives and raises issues for the College Dean's consideration. It also receives petitions from Faculty and encourages Faculty suggestions. It receives written reports from the CAS Standing Committees on their actions during the previous Fall and current Spring terms. It may also advise the CAS Standing Committees, Faculty Committees within any of the administrative structures of CAS, and the whole Faculty on any matter of concern to CAS" (p. 9).

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Membership Summary

The Faculty Council consists of thirteen elected Faculty of CAS. Members may not be Chairs.
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- Hariharan Srikanth, Physics (T)
- Razvan Teodorescu, Mathematics (T)

2020-2021 Staff Representative

- Jennifer Johnson, Psychology

Summary of Council Business and Accomplishments

The Faculty Council held 10 meetings during this academic year, in addition to accomplishing several tasks via email. All meetings were held virtually because of Covid-19. We also coordinated and moderated the Fall and Spring virtual Assemblies with the CAS Dean's Office.

1. Staffed the CAS Standing Committees
2. Established Faculty Council liaisons to many of the CAS Standing Committees. The purpose of Council liaisons to the Standing Committees is two-fold: (1) to create better communication between the Committees and the Council and (2) to create a mechanism so the Council can better support the work of the Committees. Council liaisons in 2020-2021: Janet Keeler (Diversity), Chantale Bégin (Academic Integrity), Jarod Roselló (Core Research Facilities), Razvan Teodorescu (Faculty Development), and Steven Reader (Technology). Unfortunately, neither the Faculty Development nor the Technology committees were active during 2020-2021.
3. Reviewed, commented on, and shared the CAS Library Committee's statement on proposed budget cuts
4. Encouraged the Faculty Senate to advance a Tuition Exchange Program. Chantale Bégin led the Council's efforts on this issue.
5. Moved to reconstitute the CAS Diversity Committee following the August 2020 resignation of the former Diversity Committee members:
    1. We invited former members of the Diversity Committee to exchange suggestions and strategies to improve elements of the Diversity Committee's mission, structure or institutional processes with the Council and representatives of the Dean's Office at a meeting in September;
    2. We responded to faculty-expressed concerns about administrative responses to the resignation of the Diversity Committee members;
    3. We communicated our process and efforts to reconstitute the CAS Diversity Committee will the Dean, Dr. Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman (Interim Vice President for Institutional Equity and Senior Advisor to the President and Provost for Diversity and Inclusion), and the media.
    4. We sent the new Diversity Committee members a memorandum that includes our interpretation of their Committee's mission, and a list of recommended activities for them for the current academic year;
    5. We identified a liaison to the Diversity Committee that will be meeting with them frequently as they begin their work;
    6. Michelle Hughes Miller and former members of the Diversity Committee met with the new Committee to further this conversation.