

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE (DRAFT)

FACULTY MEETING

TUESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2015 EXPLORATORY HALL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Dann Sklarew, the Chair, at 12:00 noon

II. Approval of Minutes of April 25, 2015
(draft minutes via web only at <http://tinyurl.com/COS201504>)

The minutes of the meeting of the faculty on April 21st, 2015 were approved by unanimous vote by the faculty present

III. Announcements

A. COS Dean Peggy Agouris

The Chair then introduced the Dean, Dr. Agouris, who updated the faculty on the following points:

1. COS growth: Student FTE grew by 4.3% compared to last year, although we no longer have FTE targets. It would have been larger but COS lost 68 FTEs to engineering since they stopped requiring one of our math classes and started teaching their own. WE grew 7.75% in science freshmen over last year and grew in GPA as well over Mason averages.
2. COS improved financially as we were able to reduce risk from \$3.9 mil. to \$2.5 mil currently. With by-outs being considered we reduced debt to \$1.6 mil. If we continue the same way, we should be debt free in a couple of years!
3. COS research grew to \$33 mil from \$29 mil last year. COS attracts 33% of Mason's external funding.
4. CDS is our new dept with several new positions + the integration of computational social sciences into the program. They will be searching for a new external chair to begin next year.
5. New certificate programs in Environmental GIS & Biodiversity Conservation, Geo-management, and Data Journalism
6. Three COS students received student awards for excellence last May
7. COS is now allocating \$1 mil in new equipment funding stemming from COS student fees and college resources. Depts. are encouraged to submit new equipment proposals for review by the COS Planning Committee..
8. COS's new budget planning committee is meeting frequently to review requests for spending and set priorities.

9. The faculty planning event of last spring worked particularly well and resulted in the creation of college-wide affinity groups. We plan to have more of these and also with staff and research faculty.
10. COS has a new workload policy approved by the chairs last spring. The Provost wants to develop a uniform workload policy for the university. Research productivity, in excess of college baseline expectations, will continue to be defined departmentally.
11. The Energy, Science, and Policy Center that COS and SPGIA jointly administer is being reactivated and is seeking faculty interested broadly in energy issues
12. The multidisciplinary research initiative, fostered by the Provost's office has successfully funded 14 seed research grants, with a total of 61 having been submitted for consideration. The quality of the proposals was excellent, and it is expected the competition will continue next year.

Questions and Answers with the Dean:

1. The growth among departments was varied with some showing strong, positive growth and others less so. These figures are communicated to the chairs. Presentations by department chairs will now take place at the monthly deans and chairs meetings.
2. What's the new budget model like? It is based on every unit's cost/revenue analysis with research for COS entering the analysis later. A margin is set and is shared with central and the unit. Any profit above this remains mostly in the unit.
3. Are colleges being treated differently in terms of the new budget model? Some colleges have additional expenses such as running labs. How are undeclared students and their incomes counted in this model? Perhaps an 80-20 split between college of instruction vs. the student's college will be used to deal with the actual income generated from courses.
4. Website problems? These are being dealt with systematically, as COS collects mistakes and errors, these are forwarded appropriately.
5. How are the number of TAs per dept. determined? These are set by departments along with the dean's office
6. Which large classes are most successful in COS? Mostly service classes. The office of academic affairs can be helpful here.

B. Others from the floor

Science Friday begins October 30th at noon alternating between the Fairfax Campus and the Science and Technology Campus in PW.

IV. Old Business

A. Bylaws amendment (second reading, discussion & final vote): Agenda Attachment A

The bylaws amendment, second reading, discussion and final vote was raised under old business and passed by unanimous vote of the faculty.

B. Nominations for COS Secretary and committee vacancies:¹ Agenda Attachment B

The motion to elect a temporary secretary for the Spring meeting of the faculty to take the place of Dr. Mandes, who is retiring, was made. There were no volunteers, so the Chair will appoint a volunteer for the next meeting when all offices will be considered.

The motion to fill a vacancy on the Grievance Committee was met with no nominations, so the Chair will seek a nomination.

The two vacancies on promotion and tenure need to be filled, one from AOES Dept and the other at large. Full professors are needed here.

V. New Business

A. COS Standing Committees (by committee chair/designee)

1. Executive Council – met to elect D. Luther as chair
2. Nominations and Membership – already reported under old business
3. Promotion and tenure – two new members needed. Already reported
4. Grievance – no report
5. Curriculum – no report
6. Other committee actions – the issue of removing graduate courses that have not been taught for a while arose as the Graduate Council is trying to raise departmental consciousness about this issue. It was agreed that this issue

B. Other New Business

None.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1 PM by unanimous acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Evans Mandes, Secretary, COS

¹ <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IluvC0WCR4BVqSxu0pifule36u1mpC58MbpVhp0lLq8/edit#gid=650266648>

Senior Associate Dean

Professor of Psychology and Interdisciplinary Art