

1. Approval of Dec 6th, 2017 MAFS meeting minutes

Robin approved and Linghao seconded.

2. Fall 2018 new members election

We're starting the process of filling elected positions early this year. The goal is to announce the positions early to get everyone considering nominations so nominee lists and ballots can be mainly provided in February:

a. Executive Board: need 2 new members (3 yr term) +1 fill in (1 yr term)

*b. University Faculty Senators: one needed (to be expedited)

Peter Dendle's term is ending; he commented that he has enjoyed the experience and believes that someone else should take a turn. Jacob Moore was nominated as a candidate.

c. Ombudspersons: 2 needed

d. P&T Committee member: 1 needed

e. Non-tenure Faculty Promotion Committee: 1 needed

f. UC Faculty Councilors: 1 needed

3. Students' admission and enrollment updates: Diane Chamberlin -> Robin Yaure about interviews

Diane could not come, so Robin used a little time to thank everyone who has helped with recent faculty interviews. All the HDFS candidates have visited, but there are still interviews for two more positions: Clinical/Counseling Psychology and Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Introductions and dinners have been going very well and Robin expressed appreciation to administration and Charlene for giving up their precious time.

4. Athletics Academics: Staci Brenan

Staci presented the Athletes Academic Report for Fall 2017. Most of the teams have an average CGPA of 3.0 or above. Every team has improved from last year, except wrestling took a bit of a dip. In Fall 2017, 38 athletes were on the Dean's List. Of 109 athletes, 73 had a Fall 2017 semester GPA of 3.0 or higher. While there were 16 Academically Ineligible athletes in Fall 2016, there was only one in Fall 2017, which was caused by credits, not grades.

5. Teaching Support Fund (TSF): Michael Doncheski

Following up on an Executive Board discussion of TSF being exhausted (before Christmas), Mike looked to see how long the funds have lasted in recent years. Two years ago, we started off with more funds than this year and everything was used. Last year, we started off with the same amount as this year and some was left over. Regardless, check with Mike if you need some funding for teaching support; he might have some funding from somewhere else.

Sophia asked Mike to make an announcement: Please complete Early Starfish Surveys, especially if a student has not attended any classes yet. Deana is making every effort to check with such students.

A concern was raised about the new "inactive" status in Canvas class lists. You can ignore any student marked by "inactive" because that just means the student dropped the class. Inactive students do not receive Canvas messages that are sent to the whole class list.

6. Academic & Student Leadership Awards Ceremony: Curtis Hoover

Curtis's team met recently to discuss the awards ceremony, which will be Sunday, April 8th – the day after the admissions event to use a similar layout of tables and chairs. He wanted some thoughts about possibly changing the time from 3 – 6 pm to a brunch (11 am – 2 pm), which would not cost significantly more. Between concerns about church and family members possibly traveling from an

extended distance, the consensus was that noon to 3 pm might be better. There was a suggestion that we could look into the possibility of streaming the ceremony for long distance family members.

Curtis also wanted to remind us to point students to the Penn State Crisis Line and the Crisis Text Line, both of which should be listed on every syllabus along with the other required content.

7. Academic Festival: Kim Herrmann

The next topic was an update on the Academic Festival, which will be Friday, April 20th, from roughly noon to ~4 pm. The timing is changing a bit this year to accommodate common hour. Project proposals will start to be accepted as soon as some small changes have been made- hopefully by the start of February. Proposals will be due the Friday after getting back from Spring Break: March 16th. Please keep in mind that your students might need some help with choosing between a poster (with a required method/analysis) or an exhibit (with a larger emphasis on style and use of visuals). Enough funding for prizes (\$1,000) has been secured, but the committee is still soliciting donations from local businesses (\$2,000 was great in the past). Last year faculty and staff donated ~\$950, which is currently being saved in reserve. There was a question about getting SAF funding for prizes, but SAF funding already covers refreshments and linens each year, and sometimes even paper supplies. Keep an eye out for additional updates, including an e-mail call for judging volunteers!

8. Academic Affairs Committee: Linghao Zhong

Linghao reported on committee progress toward peer reviewing of purely online (not hybrid) courses, specifically on who needs to be reviewed. (For more information, see Linghao's 12/05/17 e-mail with the subject of "Peer reviewing of teaching online courses.") The four categories of online course instructors who should be reviewed are: 1. faculty teaching an online course for the first time, 2. faculty who are up for promotion, 3. faculty who want a voluntary review, and 4. faculty whose online class receives troubled feedback from students. A concern was raised about excluding hybrid courses: are they being reviewed with face-to-face (F2F) courses or are they somehow falling through a loop hole? Another question was if those four criteria could be applied to F2F courses, and they pretty much already are applied.

The next task for the Academics Affairs Committee will be to determine who has the credentials to review an online course. Completing some kind of workshop or training might be helpful. Reviewers could be from other campuses. There are a fair number of Mont Alto faculty members who have extensive online teaching experience. There was a comment that generally ~75% of fall and spring courses are F2F whereas ~75% of summer courses are online.

Note: Although a comment was made about MAFS approving some aspects of the online course peer reviewing process, an official vote is yet to come.

9. Diversity Committee: Kira Hamman/Dan Dandy

The "Building Bridges" Photo-text Exhibit arrives on campus on 01/23/18 and Freya set it up in the library shortly thereafter. The opening reception was Thursday, Feb. 1st and the exhibit will be on display at the library for the whole month of February. The February Campus Symposium (2/19) will be related to the exhibit: "What's It Like to be a Refugee?". The Diversity Committee is currently working on additional programming to go along with the exhibit, such as a panel on immigration experience (feel free to volunteer if you want to share any recent family experience) and a closing reception. This is the fifth of nine similar exhibits that have come to Mont Alto; one on mental illness might be the sixth.

The Diversity Committee is also helping with some Unity Week (3/19 – 3/24) planning. If you will be covering any material relevant to Unity Week, be on the lookout for a call for open classes. Marketing should be starting roughly a month in advance. A "passport" might be available to keep track of which events students attend to count for specific course requirements.

10. MAFS Committee updates

No other updates.

11. University Faculty Senators' report: Renee Borromeo / Peter Dendle / Peter Linehan

Peter Dendle reported that there was a lengthy discussion on the usability of LionPATH. Some new tweaks will be coming out soon, but there will be no major overhaul anytime soon. Some of the discussion was about purchasing third party software and then having major difficulties in adjusting it to how we want it. The LionPATH team is aware of our frustrations.

Another topic was promotion on the non-tenure track. Although new titles have been implemented and a new process is coming, the desired three or five year contracts have hit a snag due to budget situations. The senate passed all the recommendations, but the president did not sign on. Faculty Affairs will probably regroup and submit another version, perhaps with two year contracts.

Debra Collins made an announcement about Mont Alto's Launchbox: proposals are being accepted for the pitch competition (LION Tank) on Friday, March 16th. The original deadline for proposals was Feb. 10th, but the deadline has been extended to Feb. 28th. Anyone in the PSU community as well as anyone in our service area is welcome to submit a proposal.

Next MAFS Meeting: Wed., Feb. 21st, 12:20 – 1:10 p.m. in ST204