

MAFS Meeting Minutes

February 9th, 2024

12:20 – 1:10 pm, Sci-Tech 204

<https://psu.zoom.us/j/96790544270>

Secretary for this month: Somjit Barat

1. Minutes of preceding meeting approved

2. Announcements by the chair, Barrett Scroggs

- a. Post-it notes at last MAFS session have been reviewed and comments were categorized into 3 tiers: those that could be addressed immediately; those that cannot be resolved right away would be charged to committees and a third category of questions that was outside the purview of MAFS exec committee had been presented to admin for further review
- b. 2 election ballots: one for exec board plus ombudsperson and another for teaching/tenure line promotion committee
- c. Robin: academic festival: digital boards, website, QR code available, Kristi as contact person; Mentors will receive email conformation same time as students; faculty needs to be additionally listed to receive confirmation or could contact the committee

3. Comments by the chancellor, Francis Achampong

- a. Dr. A: lot of information provided by different university executives through communication of Jan 22 about future roadmap; UP would have budget cut of 1.4% whereas CW 14%, which is a concern; three groups of chancellors created to look at different aspects. Dr. A is a part of 3rd group who will look at policies, procedures and practices of PSU. MA faculty and staff have been asked to provide feedback as to what hinders from getting things done at PSU. Only 2 reps from CW campuses in budget committee...WHY? Also, CW fees were lower than UP, so that also hurts our bottom line.
- b. Barrett will solicit further feedback on this.

4. Comments by the DAA, Mike Doncheski

- a. Mike commended faculty on almost perfect EPR participation.
- b. Changes to univ assessment of teaching: MSEEQ will be released Fall 2024 instead of Spring. In Spring however, both SEEQ and SRTE. However, faculty can administer their own mid-semester surveys. All units must have a system in place for peer review process for all FT faculty, who will be reviewed every 3-5 years.
- c. To prevent too much workload this will be conducted on a staggered basis. Academic affairs received new charge to oversee this aspect.
- d. For students in academic warning or suspension status, will be looked at by Jeff, Sophia and Deana in the absence of Marla. Sophia will also look at and administer academic success plan. Once a student is in suspension status, they have to go through the success plan to be reinstated to normal status, otherwise

cannot register for courses. Online form available, athletes also included. Currently 21 students in warning status of which, 12 have completed academic success plan.

5. **Comments by University Faculty Senators**, Ermek Nurkhaidarov and Robin Yaure
 - a. Ermek: main discussion about budget cuts, many questions, few answers; we will know exact amount of budget cuts by deadline (March). Outside consulting company has been hired by PSU to review the situation.
 - b. Robin encouraged every one to attend CW caucus session which has been opened to all faculty scheduled for Monday evening.

6. **Comments by University College Faculty Councilors**, Somjit Barat and Hanafiah Harvey
 - a. No update

7. **Committee reports**
 - a. Academic Affairs – David Seitz...report delivered by Mike Doncheski
 - b. Athletics – Renee Borromeo... basketball game night was a success, screening process for athletes still going on; Staci will present report next week
 - c. Campus Planning – Olivia Hammond...presented results of ‘living values survey’; one emphasis was on strengthening recruitment and retain diversity
 - d. Curricular Affairs –Jennifer Reilly...new charge to develop process that will connect faculty to local colleges for purposes of recruitment
 - e. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Somjit Barat... Final touches are being put on City Guide based on mostly positive feedback received from survey. No more new work will be conducted, only finishing touches mainly aimed to bring consistency in format and presentation of different city guides
 - f. Faculty Affairs – Kristi Addleman Ritter ...nothing new, still PDF funds being processed, and reviewing the social event survey
 - g. Information Technology—Tom Reinsfelder... inventory of technology in classrooms in progress

8. **New business**
 - a. **Discussion on the [Road map for Penn State’s future](#)**
 - i. Barrett: some people already submitted questions in response to survey distributed earlier, shared with Dr. A, Mike, Ermek and Robin.
 - ii. Programs being reviewed - what about 2+2? Mike said this was discussed at ALC, and this is considered as mission of university, based on education and research. Dr. A said 2+2 will never go away because it brings in money; there is concern among faculty with regards to high school, and community colleges and how they have started offering associates degree; UP and some CW campuses are working on agreements with colleges, which MA has been doing for years
 - iii. What is the procedure for terminating programs at CW campuses: when and how and who is involved etc. In a previous iteration of a similar

procedure, there was a set # of students (i.e. if enrolment is below this #, the program subject to termination, tenured faculty will likely be relocated to another campus.) Please note, this was in a previous iteration – we do not know what this process will look like this time around.

- iv. Up to 1 year contract for all teaching line and non-tenured faculty - this is not necessarily new
- v. Faculty encouraged to attend Monday evening plenary session meeting. Meeting adjourned.

9. Comments and recommendations for the good of the campus

Next meeting: Wednesday March 13th, 2024, 12:20-1:10 pm, Sci-Tech 204

January 12, 2024 | 2:30pm | Library 215 (and Zoom)

Present: L. Denlea*, B. Neisser, T. Reinsfelder, J. Moore, P. Plummer*, D. Prowant

Absent: G. Mahlon, J. Henry

*Attended remotely via Zoom

10. Faculty profiles on campus website [continued] & Mont Alto Story Tellers Project(s).

- a. Will follow up with Anita. She was working to have some updates on both of these by end of January.
- b. Faculty / Staff photos being taken and updated on website directory.

11. Technology support for classrooms used for shared courses delivered across multiple campuses. Following guidelines in the “Shared Courses Playbook”, a document provided to all campuses by PSU IT and OVPCC.

- a. MAFS IT is evaluating classrooms to provide a technology inventory, assessment, and recommendations. Are we ok? What do we need to meet minimal recommendations, optimal recommendations?
- b. Committee Members evaluated classrooms using criteria from the “Shared Courses Playbook” and compiled a list/spreadsheet.
 1. [MA Classroom Observations/Recommendations](#)
 2. [Current PSMA Classroom technology list](#)

Will follow up with Mike D. for feedback and next steps.

Notes taken by: Tom R.

1/15/24 | 10-11am | Remote meeting via Zoom

Present: Khaled Amleh, Kimberly Bohn, Anne Devney, Kim Herrman, Anne Hill, David Seitz (Chair)

Absent: Peter Dendle, Thomas Kramer

Notes: David recognized MLK day today. AAC Mike Doncheski is guest at our meeting- welcome Mike! Shawn Wiley not available today but Mike shared ideas at our meeting.

AAC's 2nd charge of the academic year is: "Develop a process for connecting faculty to area high schools for admissions presentations and research talks. As outlined in the campus strategic enrollment management committee's latest plan, admissions must become a campus-wide initiative to support the future of the campus. The committee is asked to work with the Director of Academic Affairs and the Director of Enrollment Management to develop this process."

Mike elaborated that PSMA admissions team has limited access to high school students for recruitment other than FAFSA workshops. Faculty can go in as many times as we are invited, and, thus, we may have more opportunities to interact with potential students. This could be an opportunity for presentation of research, activities, "road show" concepts, and interactive programs. In years past, we had the "experts list" maintained by PR and marketing, but this has gone by wayside. This may be a good place to start, understanding that it will be teachers, and not counselors or administrators, that would be inviting us.

Discussion that HS teachers could assist by letting us know what would be helpful to them as part of their curriculum. What could we develop to help the teachers rather than asking them to let us in with an "extra" task. Question- How could we do better at identifying which instructors would be interested?

Discussed could work on an updated "experts" list, as well as reaching out to our own connections in community with teachers.

Discussed PSMA MedCamp takes place over summer already- many of these students go elsewhere to college, however. Other ideas: Scouts Merit Badge College Days are being held at Messiah and York Colleges. A PSMA Allied Health Day(s) being developed for hopeful roll-out next fall. Discussed we could do better at letting local schools know what is already going on campus inc. speakers, Stargazer nights, etc. Discussed that wearing a PSMA Tshirt at HS events can even get the word out of PSMA's existence. Kim shared that she has been at STEAM Expo and others, Middletown HS astronomy demos, Williamsport STEM challenge day, choral festival on campus in spring, local school athletic/ choral/ STEM events, , planetarium events at libraries in local schools... and she keeps getting invites. Discussed volunteering at events that are already being planned by HS's and their instructors may be a good avenue to partnership and market.

Discussed if there is any evidence that this type of initiative works, but no one in this meeting is aware of such data. One example Mike shared was that when admissions counselors were not available to visit out of state schools, admissions tanked from those schools, but now with increased visitation the admission applications from those areas are on the rise. Also in the past, we had tried dual enrollment in Carlisle, but most of the time these students went on to apply to private colleges, using the dual enrollment as low cost, high quality credits, so we no longer do this. Discussed that there is a local stigma that Mont Alto may be "less than..." or below quality/ rigor of other options - how can we best overcome this stigma? Discussion that possibly instructors or local grads could go back and talk to HS'ers. Discussed that experts list could be a useful tool for when phone calls to campus come in, serving as a "directory" for community requests/ opportunities. Randall may also be a contact to use this list and see what the community may find helpful.

Discussed that AAC could assemble the experts list, but we could ask Shawn to connect us to high school educators with this list and options, and ask them what *they* need. We could gather information about areas that they would like to have experts come in and talk about. Is there a possibility of targeting HS teachers with these specifics? Discussed other opportunities that may exist beyond in-class lectures: afterschool and club activities, local libraries/ Y's with summer schedules, athletic events, possibility of volunteering at Franklin County Science Fair end of March/ April- ? Adams county dates, Tuscarora Wildlife Education Center, FFA events, SGA events, debate/ UN club events,

recreational centers. Discussed possibility of our students going on field trips to other events or *as* the experts-coach/ student demos possibly to sports teams, for example.

David will contact Shawn Wiley for more info, and send out a list serve to develop a new "experts list" for faculty to share what they could possibly speak on or present. David may discuss with athletics department what they are doing Mike said he'd be open to come to future meetings on this topic.. Mike found an "old version" of the experts list and sent it out:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20151028085313/http://montalto.psu.edu/Information/News/18830.htm>

Next meeting date/ time TBD.

Meeting adjourned: 10:46am Notes taken by: Anne Hill

The Athletics Committee met on 2/2/24. Major points of discussion included:

12. Co-sponsoring of Faculty/Staff night at the women's and men's basketball games Wednesday, Feb. 7.
13. Functional Movement Systems (FMS) Screenings completed Jan. 26. Amanda Snider led the group which included faculty, students, and staff. Individual players and team coaches were provided with results of the screenings, including suggested corrections. screenings will be planned for fall and winter during the 2024-25 academic year. Renee will share a press release, written by Amanda, with Anita. We will request that this be a feature story on the website and be shared with local press.
14. Wrestling: This program was determined to be financially unsustainable, so was dropped several years ago.
15. Conversations with Administration (Feb. 21, 2024): Staci will be presenting at this event.
16. It was suggested that we invite Hailey Dawson, the chair of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, to an upcoming Athletics Committee meeting.