

## CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: Monday, October 15, 2018

### 1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved unanimously at 2:31 PM.

### 2. Approval of the minutes from September 2018

Approved unanimously at 2:31 PM.

### 3. Dean's Report

The Dean's report consists of three items.

#### 1. *Town hall with the new Chancellor*

The Dean reports that the new Chancellor announced a 2.5 million surplus during her first town hall meeting. The Provost, who followed the Chancellor, did not present any hiring projections, and the Dean suspects that we will not know anything more about hiring prospects until the Spring.

#### 2. *Open house*

The Dean reports that the open house on Saturday was a great success: ~1,500 people came.

#### 3. *Memo on inter-university service*

The Dean reports that many CLA chairs contacted him about the Chancellor's memo on inter-university service. He admits that it's not clear what exactly is being proposed, but he hopes that "end-users" will be asked to serve on the relevant committee. He suspects that the goal is to cut down on duplication.

The Dean then takes questions from the CLA Senate.

The Moderator, following up on last month's report, asks whether faculty will be involved in the Provost's academic plan. The Dean acknowledges that the issue is still in the Provost's hands, but that they're meeting on Friday. He also emphasizes, as he did last month, that the Provost is currently working on coming up with (i) procedures to fast track programs and (ii) decision-making procedures to assist with judgements about programs that should be expanded and programs that should be "sunsetting". However, the Dean promises to raise the issue of faculty involvement when he meets with the Provost.

While answering the Moderator's question, the Dean reports that online courses will go back to departments, but that revenue-sharing plans have not quite taken shape. A Senator follows up, asking what revenue-sharing means in this context. The Dean explains that the revenue from online programs is typically shared between CAPs and the unit/department developing the

**Commented [DB1]:** We should follow up on this again next time. (I must confess that I'm a little concerned that the Dean keeps emphasizing that, right now, the focus is just on (i) and (ii), as if faculty do not need to be involved at this stage. We need to ensure that faculty are involved right now).  
AGREE!

course. This incentivizes online course development: if a unit/department develops an online course, they get a cut. However, equity issues arise when the unit is large, for example, when the online course is developed by Nursing or Management. The issue is whether revenue from such programs should be shared.

A Senator asks the Dean whether a task-force has been formed to “sunset” UMB centers and institutes. The Dean believes that a taskforce has been formed, but notes that Deans are not involved. He says that the issue is “out of his hands”.

A Senator raises a concern about UMB’s use of the platform, Salesforce, which does business with U.S. Customs and Borders Protection. He asks that faculty be informed of ongoing conversations with the company and use of the platform. The Dean responds by explaining that this platform allows for much needed technical improvements.

**Commented [DB2]:** Is that right? I'd never heard of this platform. YES- and we need to be sure that we don't do further business with the company

Dean’s Report ends 2:50PM.

#### 4. Moderator’s Report

The Moderator updates Senators on the Philosophy department’s response to the Provost’s memo requesting that CLA departments provide comparative department data of teaching effectiveness in tenure and promotion cases. The Chair of that department, Chris Zurn, submitted a motion to the Faculty Council’s Executive Committee. In their October meeting, the Faculty Council passed the following motion: “The Faculty Council rejects the adoption of the Interim Provost’s Statistical Teaching Template in matters of Tenure and Promotion at UMass Boston and advises academic departments, Department Personnel Committees, Department Chairs and College Personnel Committees against its use.”

#### 5. Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following NEW courses:

Before giving the floor to Professors Lewis and Watanabe, the Moderator introduces the following new courses:

*Cine 121G*

Approved unanimously at 2:48pm

*Econ 381*

A Senator asks a question about cross-listing courses. The Moderator notes that Senators should feel free to suggest cross-listing, and the Senator suggest that this course would work well with Environmental Science.

Approved unanimously at 2:50pm

*Engl 270G*

*Engl 452*

*Engl 358*

The Moderator proposes that the course changes be approved as a block. That motion is approved unanimously. The Moderator proposes that the course changes be approved. That motion is approved unanimously. These courses are unanimously approved as a block at 2:52pm

*Labor Studies 450*

*Labor Studies 480*

A Senator notes that despite including “discrimination”, 450 is very white. It might be good to include more scholars of color in the readings. The Moderator promises to pass that suggestion along.

The Moderator proposes that the course changes be approved as a block. That motion is approved unanimously. The Moderator proposes that the course changes be approved. That motion is approved unanimously. These courses are unanimously approved as a block at 2:56pm

**6. Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following changes to existing courses:**

Cine 201

Cine 202

The Moderator proposes that the course changes be approved as a block. That motion is approved unanimously. The Moderator proposes that the course changes be approved. That motion is approved unanimously. These courses are unanimously approved as a block at 2:57pm

Poli Sci 202

Approved unanimously at 2:57pm

**7. New Business**

The Moderator then turns the floor over to Professor Barbara Lewis (Director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture) and Professor Paul Watanabe (Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies) to discuss the threat that centers and institutes at UMB face in the current fiscal climate.

Professor Lewis starts by outlining the history and purpose of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture. Founded in 1984 by Black and Latino community activists to address the needs and concerns of black and minority communities in Boston, the

institute's goal is to provide representation for students of color at UMB and conduct research on Black culture. Professor Lewis notes that the institute is starting to mature, however it is now being targeted and rejected by the university. Professor Lewis details several troubling interactions with the administration and university advancement, in addition to the divisive rhetoric (i.e. support for an institution like hers takes money away from students), as evidence that UMB centers and institutes are under threat of elimination.

Professor Watanabe, in broad agreement with Professor Lewis about the threat UMB centers and institutes face, provides a broader historical context for the CLA Senate. He points to UMB's "courageous and difficult" founding mission: not just to be a university *in* Boston, but to be a university *of* Boston. He explains that community-engaged centers and institutes are fundamental to this mission (not an optional add-on), before providing a potted history of their founding and evolution at UMB. He points out that *because* centers and institutes were fundamental to UMB's original mission, there was a commitment to provide a base-level of financial support for these institutions, but the university has fought this over the years. Nonetheless, the legislature has both remembered and attempted to honor this commitment. There is now proposed legislation to provide new money as a base-level support (i.e. a proposal to fund earmarks), but Professor Watanabe maintains that the real test of whether the university wants UMB centers and institutes to survive lies in whether they support or oppose this legislation.

The challenge, both Professors Lewis and Watanabe note, is to get the university and the UMB community to see the value of these centers. The university wants to know: how much money do you bring in? How do you pay for your initiatives and your salaried employees? What measurable value do you bring? Despite the fact that, for example, the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy supports 10 graduate students, facilitates student exchanges, teaches a course in Anthropology, the rhetoric is still that these centers take resources away from UMB students.

In light of this strategy, the Moderator asks how the CLA Senate can help illuminate the value of these centers and institutes. A Senator, who runs another UMB center under threat, explains that this rhetoric is fairly new, and that it has been supplemented by a series of "divide and conquer" strategies that are design to pit the centers and institutes against each other. In response, the UMB centers and institutes have united under the acronym: CANALA.

A Senator follows up, asking again, what concrete steps can the CLA Senate take to illuminate the value and importance of these centers and institutes. In response, Professor Watanabe asks us to support a motion in front of Faculty Council, which states that there should be a moratorium on cuts for these institutions until a clear and transparent process to assess their value (not just understood in financial terms) is put in place. Funding should be kept at FY18 levels until such a taskforce has been formed.

Another Senator calls on the CLA Senate to provide a counter-narrative. He explains that his graduate program would not exist without these institutions. They draw excellent students to UMB, and provide other invaluable academic opportunities. This Senator suggest that CLA ought to write a statement highlighting the value of these institutions to UMB, and notes that the Union ought to issue a statement too.

The CLA Senate agrees, and Danielle Bromwich (Philosophy), Jeffrey Melnick (American Studies), Tahirah Abdullah (Psychology), and Yun Kim (Economics) agree to serve.

The meeting ends at 4PM.

