

College of Arts and Sciences  
Faculty Council Meeting  
Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
2:00 – 4:00pm, Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

In attendance:

Council members: Corton, Collins, Friedman, Johnson, McCleary, Novoa, Pal, Song,  
Varma

CAS Dean's office: Kirchman, Michael, Shimizu, Serls

II. Approval of 9/22/2023 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved

III. Standing Committee Liaisons

- a. Library Committee (Kissi absent to give keynote address at Holocaust conference, Pacific Lutheran University) – No update

- b. Diversity Committee (Novoa)

Last meeting was 10/26/23. A lot of discussion of Florida Senate Bill 266 (SB 266), especially concern regarding legality and implementation.

There is a possibility that a subcommittee will be formed to express and explain pushback against SB 266.

Appears to be significant morale issues among faculty, including anxiety.

Seems unlikely to have the guidelines on implementation of the law very soon, especially as there is a lot of current pushbacks, including in the legal system. As an example, there is a lawsuit initiated by a student and a faculty member from New College that is ongoing and may cause stoppage of implementation.

Other issues include possible violations of federal law. Many granting agencies have diversity, equity, and inclusion rules, and it would be difficult for USF to be in compliance with

Suggestion that we invite the Provost and/or President (less likely to happen) to a CAS Faculty Council meeting. General consensus that it would be quicker to get CAS FC concerns to the Provost via the next Faculty Senate meeting, although Provost could be invited to a future CAS FC meeting on a regular (semester?) basis. Jennifer C. will contact Faculty Senate officers from CAS to express concerns and will reach out to Provost to invite to a future CAS FC meeting.

c.

The Provost's Office has sent e-mails concerning applying for large seed grants (USF Provost Collaborative Research Excellence and Translational Efforts (CREATE) Awards). Randy Larsen is ready to help. Must include members from at least three different colleges and must be new lines of research (not current lines). Funds are meant as seed money to "establish financially sustainable research centers, institutes, and initiatives."

Many leadership positions will be changing in the near future. The previous University Chief Financial Officer, Rich Sobieray, has been asked to focus on USF's partnership with TGH, Jennifer Condon has been named Interim CFO, the second highest member of Human Resources resigned, and there are several Dean searches upcoming (College of Business, CAS, and Engineering).

## VII. Fall Assembly (Collins)

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