

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

LEADERSHIP MEETING

4:00pm Monday, April 6, 2026
Cedric Rucker University Center 314

Notes

In attendance: Laura Mentore, Marcel Rotter, Keith Mellinger, Julia DeLancey, Zach Whalen, Mindy Erchull, Miriam Liss, Jonathan Levin, Ana Chichester, Claudine Ferrell, Rosalyn Cooperman, Melina Patterson

- I. Teaching Load Equivalency in HSS
 - A. discussed Miriam Liss's Draft Proposal which considers research teams
 - B. Two Models
 1. Supervision Unit Equivalency
 2. Look Back Model

Discussion:

 - We need to maintain a base load of 21 class hours per academic year
 - Can't drop faculty to 18 hours per year – just not reasonable at this time
 - Faculty need to be discussing teaching plan for the entire academic year with Chairs.
- II. Undergraduate research opportunities – Betsy Lewis (visitor)
 - A. Research and Creativity Day
 1. Submit by April 15th on Research and Creativity page
 2. Sign up for workshops and oral presentations
 3. Printer-palooza day before poster sessions
 - B. Summer Programs
 1. AHSSSI symposium on June 17th
 2. SSI symposium on July 22
- III. Booking Classrooms
 - A. Current Practices
 - B. How to improve?
- IV. Taking Stock of This Year
 - A. Learning
 - B. Majors and Mentors Day
 1. Successful
 2. Maybe less segregated by school in the future
 - C. Three new academic programs
 1. Medical Humanities

- 2. Food Studies
 - 3. Revamped Anthropology degree
 - C. 6 team-taught interdisciplinary courses
 - D. 68 Faculty development applications
 - 1. \$121,000 in faculty development funds for HSS
 - 2. Faculty attended conferences all over the world
- V. Looking Forward
 - A. HSS School
 - 1. New Recruitment Programming
 - a. Revise
 - b. Expand
 - c. Plan
 - 2. Alumni Outreach and Fundraising
 - 3. Developing an HSS Identity
 - 4. Deeper Collaboration among/between Chairs
 - B. Humanities Center
 - 1. Should open in the fall
 - 2. External partnerships
 - A. Shenandoah Permaculture Institute
 - B. Rappahannock Education Farm
 - C. Ideas for Planning August Retreat
- VI. FYSA: New SCHEV policy language on program productivity and viability
 - A. ROI as a Justification Factor
 - 1. If a program is flagged for low enrollment or low degree productivity, the public institution must now address the program's ROI when seeking to justify its continuation.
 - B. Measurement Criteria
 - 1. SCHEV's staff has developed a model to measure ROI by constructing lifetime wage projections using person-level wage data. This includes:
 - a. Using median wages per program level and instructional area (CIP code).
 - b. Calculating seven-year moving averages to minimize short-term fluctuations.
 - C. Statewide Strategy Alignment
 - 1. This change aligns with the broader "Virginia Plan for Higher Education", which aims to increase the share of workers holding "credentials of value" that lead to meaningful career and economic mobility.
- VII. Minor changes in Sabbatical and FDSG application processes
 - A. Sabbaticals
 - 1. See attachment sent earlier today from USFFAC.
 - 2. Sabbaticals are highly competitive. Less than 50% success rate this year.

3. Deadline of Sept. 7th is FIRM – system will not accept applications after that date.
4. Microsoft Teams form
5. Coversheet must be signed by chair.
6. There are now firm character limits for each part of the application
7. Applicants will be notified in early November.
8. Unsuccessful applications will receive some written feedback

B. FDSG

1. Application deadlines will be firm starting with the next cycle – the application will not be available after the cut-off date.
2. Proactively share these deadlines with your faculty
3. Find information at <https://cas.umw.edu/faculty-2/grants/faculty-development-supplemental-grants/>