

Final Report of the Fairmount College Council

2020-2021

Submitted by Jeff Hayton

Members of the Fairmount College Council, 2020-2021

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We would like to express our thanks to all members of the College Council for their commitment to the Fairmount College and its mission for shared governance; we also would like to recognize Dean Andrew Hippisley and Senior Assistant Dean Cheryl Miller for their continued support of the College Council. In this report, I would like to provide a brief summary of the College Council's work during the past academic year (2020-2021) which was concerned primarily with four main issues:

Dean's Evaluation

The College Council is charged with conducting an evaluation of the dean every three years. In Fall 2020, a subcommittee was formed to administer the evaluation survey. Out of 210 faculty who were invited to participate in the evaluation, 103 responded (49.04% response rate), and 58 offered comments. Results were forwarded to the Dean and Provost Office.

LAS Graduation Requirements – LAS Graduation Comparisons

As part of the effort to revisit LAS graduation requirements, the College Council formed a subcommittee to investigate requirements at similar institutions. The subcommittee analyzed the requirements of 13 institutions (peers, aspirational, and Kansas schools). The subcommittee aggregated the data and presented its findings to the College Council in October 2020.

LAS Graduation Requirements – Faculty Survey

As part of the effort to revisit LAS graduation requirements, the College Council formed a subcommittee to poll LAS faculty on their perceptions of LAS graduation requirements in March 2021. Out of 197 faculty invited to participate in the survey, 79 responded (40.1% response rate). The questions asked faculty to assess whether LAS graduation requirements effectively taught students core LAS skills (critical thinking, interpreting information, communicating orally and in writing, problem solving, etc.). The responses show that LAS faculty are generally satisfied with the requirements, although it seems there is room for improvement, especially related to writing skills. Survey results also revealed that faculty are less satisfied with college-wide efforts at informing students about the value of an LAS education, and student understandings of these values.

LAS Graduation Requirements – Committee

As part of the effort to revisit LAS graduation requirements, six members of the College Council participated in bi-weekly meetings in the task force exploring requirement revisions.