

2022 - 2023 USF College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council  
Byron Miller (2022 - 2023 Faculty Council Chair)  
Annual Report of Activities

As we began the 2022 - 2023 academic year, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Faculty Council had several goals we planned to accomplish, but we also addressed unforeseen issues as they arose throughout the year that posed unprecedented issues for CAS students, staff, and faculty as well as the broader university.

One of our goals was to make sure all CAS Standing Committees were formed in the Fall semester and met regularly throughout the year to address the tasks the CAS Governance document charges to each. With some assistance from the Deans Office, we successfully met this goal, as all Standing Committees were formed, elected their respective committee chairs, and met regularly either in person or by corresponding via Teams or email.

Another goal was to continue improving the lines of communication between the Standing Committees, Faculty Council, and Deans Office by continuing the Faculty Council Liaison Program the Council first established in the 2021 - 2022. The program significantly helped the Council meet our objectives by having Council members volunteer to serve as non-voting liaisons to each of the Standing Committees and then providing an update of their activities and concerns at the Council's monthly meetings with the Deans Office.

A third Council goal was to make sure all CAS faculty and staff had the computing equipment needed to fulfill our responsibilities. This included updating or replacing both PC and Mac computers, as well as providing other hardware products such as microphones and video cameras that have become necessary in our new highly virtual work environment. Accomplishing this goal is an ongoing task, but many faculty and staff received new equipment including hundreds of desktop PCs and Macs as well as video cameras and microphones.

The Council also continued the pursuit of implementing the Tuition Exchange Program (TEP) at USF. There are nearly 700 member institutions in the TEP, which allows dependents of eligible employees to attend each other's institutions with either no or significantly reduced tuition costs, excluding room and board. The Council submitted a formal proposal for adopting the program to the Deans Senior Staff, although the final decision on adopting the program must be made by the university and not the college.

Although the process of consolidation is technically completed, the Council continued to advocate for the Deans Office to address some of the inequalities across campuses like differences in salaries and administrative opportunities. As a result, Sarasota and St. Pete began addressing salary inequities for staff, adjunct faculty, and full-time faculty. The same administrative titles will also be used across campuses such that Program Coordinators will now be called Program Directors.

Some of our other activities this year included holding 8 monthly meetings, working with the Deans Office in the beginning of the year to reorganize the Core Facilities Standing Committee

to include 7 facilities managers as well as 7 faculty members, and selecting the Standing Committees members who will begin their terms in Fall 2023.

Many faculty concerns raised this year were beyond the purview of the Council because they were related to political issues beyond our control, however we continued to work with the Deans Office to keep faculty updated on these issues. These discussions centered around topics like House Bill 7 (a.k.a. STOP WOKE Act), Senate Bill 266 that will stop university spending money on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, as well as the procedures for completing the newly adopted post-tenure review process.