Present: Dale McFadden (chair), Stuart Davis, Julia Fox, Peter Guardino, Vivian Halloran, Scott Michaels, Kevin Pilgrim, Julie Van Voorhis, Nick Williams

The meeting was called to order at 4:00. The minutes from November 9 were discussed and approved.

Margaret Dolinsky, Department of Studio Art, and Sandra Kuebler, Department of Linguistics, joined the meeting at 4:30 to discuss the proposed Interdisciplinary Program in Digital Arts and Humanities. Dolinsky and Kuebler provided a brief history of the program and its connection with the Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities (IDAH), housed in OVPR, which supports faculty research in this area; IDAH will likely be the home for the new program. Dolinsky and Kuebler discussed how humanists use technology in ways that computer scientists don’t usually consider and asserted their support for the College playing a leading role in this endeavor.

The CPC asked how this program will benefit students. Dolinsky and Kuebler stated that the graduate certificate and minor would provide students with technical skills that could be applied to advanced research, as well as an additional academic credential that could potentially be useful for job placement. The presence of this program would enhance the visibility of Digital Arts and Humanities and help with recruiting both faculty and students into interdisciplinary work in this area.

The CPC asked if College faculty involved with the formation of the program were satisfied with their level of involvement. Dolinsky and Kuebler responded that they were comfortable with the level of involvement expected of them, although they would like to have had more input into the selection of a director of IDAH, who will also serve as director of the program. The search for this position is currently underway.

Dolinsky and Kuebler left the meeting at 5:00, at which time Executive Dean Larry Singell arrived to discuss two items related to the College budget. Singell discussed a task force that was convened by the Provost to provide guidance on the budget challenges facing the College. The committee resulted from a discussion between the Provost and the Executive Dean about how best to approach the College's budget circumstances, and in the words of the Dean, is very much a cooperative effort. A similar committee approach has been used by other schools, such as Jacobs School of Music and SPEA when they experienced similar budget concerns.

The task force is comprised of members of the College administration (Scott Feickert, Jean Robinson, and Larry Singell), five administrators from other units on campus (M. A.
Venkataramanan (Venkat), Provost's Office; Aimee Heeter, Provost’s Office; Mike Fowler, SPEA; Jill Piedmont, Jacobs School of Music; and Austin Parish, Maurer School of Law), and three department chairs (Bill Hetrick, Psychological and Brain Science; Winni Sullivan, Religious Studies; and Eric Sandweiss, History). The purpose of the committee is to provide a list of options and best practices to address both revenue and costs in the College with an objective of helping the College remain financially sustainable. The task force will complete its deliberations in December, after which it will produce a report with recommendations. Dean Singell then plans to present the recommendations of the report to the CPC and the chairs and directors early next semester: he plans to uses these discussions along with meeting with the College members of the task force to develop a tentative action plan that would also be discussed with the CPC and presented to the chairs and directors.

The second budget item concerns possible changes at the federal level to the Fair Labor and Standards Act (FLSA), which would potentially increase overtime compensation for fiscal officers. If the changes go through, the College would need to look for efficiencies in staffing and develop a plan for accommodating the new requirements.

Executive Dean Singell left the meeting at 5:15. The CPC discussed upcoming agenda items and adjourned at 5:30.

Julie Van Voorhis, recorder