

**TO:** Lynne Howard, BFA Program Coordinator and Bob Ferry, BFA Chair

**FROM:** Seth Myers, Chair Academic Affairs Committee

**DATE:** April 22, 2019

**RE:** AAC Year-End Report for AY 18-19

### **Introduction:**

This has been my first year as chair of any standing committee of the BFA and my second year as a member of this body. I say this because this year has been an incredible learning experience and to perhaps excuse any real or apparent shortcomings the following report may suggest. I am quickly becoming more comfortable with my role and in the ways that I can and ought to address committee members, other members of the Executive Committee, and even the BFA as a whole. I continue to be grateful to serve in this capacity and as ever request feedback, comments, or questions about my role or the role of the AAC.

### **Membership:**

Seth Myers, Chair  
Shanta De Alwis  
Virginia Anderson  
Susan Nevelow-Mart  
Jennifer Hendricks (Fall substitute for Susan Nevelow-Mart)

#### Resources:

Kathryn Pieplow  
Mary Kraus  
Katherine Eggert

As of this report, the AAC has one vacancy for an Arts and Sciences representative and two vacancies for “other units” representatives

### **Topics and Projects:**

The AAC worked closely with Provosts Mary Kraus and Katherine Eggert on changes to the campus Final Exam Policy. Much of this work was to specify decision-making procedures and to update and revise the language of the policy. However, substantive thought went into the different needs of the colleges and units and to the potential outcomes of such revisions. This work resulted in the implementation of the revised policy.

We also continued to work with the office of Undergraduate Education to discuss the first year seminar program, Foundations of Excellence, and the Alternate College Option. These programs and policies are designed to support incoming students who don't have access to traditional support structures and to improve education, retention, and the student experience.

Our work with Provost Kraus's office also included a consideration of the course materials policy revised to increase accessibility. The revised policy aids the bookstore and Disability Services in creating accessible methods of delivery in a timely process. After a few objections, it was clear that the administration was acting in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As a body, the AAC also considered its charge and developed a question for the BFA survey. The former required no change, and the latter we designed to be as broad and open as possible.

**Looking forward:**

I look forward to continuing my role as chair of the AAC next year. The first item on my agenda is to work to build more community-feeling among the AAC. I'm hoping that with a stronger group dynamic we might explore more topics and do so in more depth.

More concretely, I will be working with BFA administration over the summer to determine the AAC's role in the revision of the campus's transfer credit policy.