

Minutes

UCA Core Council

Tuesday, December 7th, 2021

1:40 pm (Online)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Held called the meeting to order at roughly 1:40.
- II. Approval of Minutes from 11-02-21
 - a. W. Lucas moves to approve the minutes, J. Talbot Seconds.
 - b. No discussion, Unanimously approved.
- III. Assessment sub-committee I & II
 - a. Report from chair
 - i. CHEM 1400, 1402, 1450
 1. D. Lance moves to approve, L. Gillis seconds
 2. No discussion, Unanimously approved.
 - ii. ENGL 1350, 1355, 1373
 1. W. Lucas moves to approve, S. Watson seconds
 2. No discussion, Unanimously approved.
 - iii. LING 2350
 1. W. Lucas moves to approve, S. Watson seconds
 2. No discussion, Unanimously approved.
 - iv. PHIL 1301, 1373, 2305
 1. D. Lance moves to approve, L. Gillis seconds
 2. No discussion, Unanimously approved.
- IV. Curriculum sub-committee
 - a. Report from Chair
 - i. HIST 4395: W. Lucas moves to approve, D. Lance seconds
 - ii. No discussion, Unanimously approved.
 - b. New items distributed:
 - i. Action Items: HIST 4307
- V. Sundry matters:
 - a. Lamenting the lack of a “thumbs down” emoji to indicate dissent, Held begins searching for an appropriate emoji. S. O’Connell emotes with a “thumbs down” emoji. “Where did you find that?” Held inquires. O’Connell directs Held to the ellipsis under “reactions.” Alas, the emoji is discovered. But there are so many new emoji; so many new experiences to be had, emoted, and celebrated. What, pray tell, might we use for abstentions? Discussion ensues, myriad emoji are shared amongst the Council. Christmas trees, fireworks, shooting stars...the options seem endless. And with endless possibility, paralysis. The irony of choice. With infinite options, how can one decide? Held recalls silently to himself the paradox of Buridan’s ass, famously used by Leibniz in his articulation of the principle of sufficient reason. (But that harkens back to a time when Held was a philosophy professor, before the emptiness of administration suffocated his once vibrant spirit. Now he ponders emoji, anything to distract him from

the unrelenting boredom of another meeting, another day in the life of the Assistant Provost for Academic Assessment and General Education.) Council members pepper the screen with emoji, some offered as legitimate options for “abstention,” others, clearly frivolous attempts at humor. In the end, it is Stephanie Watson who proffers a befitting emoji: a silhouette of a genderless, human bust. Blank. Empty, yet present. So fitting for the hollowness of an abstention vote. Is abstention the mark of indifference, indecisiveness...cowardice? Only the empty silhouette knows, and it presents itself to us silently.

- b. Below are the emoji we settled on to indicate one’s disposition in a vote. Held will forward these along to administration in Wingo to promote standardization of emoji use, and thus perspicuity in zoom voting.

c. In favor:



d. Opposed:



e. Abstention:



VI. Adjourn: Next meeting is February 01-22