

November 6, 2018

Notes on the meeting:

- Announcements
  - Meet your mentor with UROP was a great success with over 50 students attending.
  - Spring Registration will be underway next week. With the help of the Philosophy department adding one section, we can ensure our first-year cohort has the opportunity to take a second Honors course in the first-year.
- Action Plan to Combat Racism and Bias
  - Students had a resoundingly positive response to the program message.
  - Students are planning on organizing at least one event per month to support the university action plan.
  - The program will seek to increase its diversity by having supplemental outreach to students when the currently-enrolled invitation goes out in January.
- Budget/Load Update
  - In-loading faces an uphill climb with the current discount rate. One-faculty seminars are capped below the de-facto threshold that CAS would prefer to offer courses. We will need to revisit this in the spring as we prepare to approve future seminars.
  - FY 20 budget projections suggested we would need to cut existing seminar lines. Wendy has requested we receive enough funding to cover the pre-approved seminars, but we will need to discuss a budget model with Academic Affairs prior to approving seminars in the spring.
- Student Updates
  - Students are motivated and engaged. I am continually impressed by this group of student board members.
  - Recently Dr. Britain Scott took her Honors Psychology class to the Mental Health: Mind Matters exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota.
  - Students independently organized rides to voting booths today.
- Alumni Outreach



- Don't forget to follow our LinkedIn page  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/aquinasscholars/>
- TommieConnect - We will be sending out a trial alumni invite to alumni who are employed at St. Thomas and grow from there.
- We had connection fliers at Homecoming.
- We have invited an alum to give a talk in December, details pending.
- Application Process
  - Admissions will be having our application appear on the application portal instead of just our website.
  - *If you need training on the application software and work-flow, let me know and I'll set up a meeting.*
- Essay Reading Assignments and Review
  - The board present liked the idea of having a flowing application system this year where Erica assigns applications to the next available board member. This will spread out the workload and average our responses.
- Essay Discussion
  - After much discussion, the general feeling was that we would retain the essay format and remove the auto-accept this year. The essay should focus on intent, thoughtfulness, and structure among other priorities. Jan and Ryan offered to formulate the thoughts of the group in to a potential essay and rubric by the December meeting. With approval, we could have the new essay in place in the work-flow before our invitations go out in January.