<u>Faculty meeting notes (10.26.22)</u>

1. Meeting with Dean White & Senior Associate Dean Engelhardt

a. The development of the new travel system did not enough take into account human input, which accounts for its flaws
    > It will continue to be modified, and our criticisms will be shared with the Provost

b. What is the Dean's vision for innovation in the humanities?
    > Its core would remain a liberal arts college (as identification)
    > We are dealing with the fallout of a decade of decay in the narrative of the education in the humanities (shift to natural sciences)
    > The different degrees (organized according to general field) don't really make a financial difference for students long-term

c. Focus on job training diverges from the Dean's guiding philosophy of serving the State
    > Train "better citizens for the future"
    > Focus on communication skills + knowledge of human beings
    > False narrative (or a "big lie") is that humanities students aren't doing "real work"
    > Dean will focus primarily on data (his example is that the CEOs of the top 500 companies are probably not only STEM graduates)
    > Focus on new ideas, new things (relates to the question of innovation)
    > Increasingly globalized world: retention importance (faculty timeline lasts decades)
    > Investment into depth vs. general education
    > Question of monetary limitations
    > Both Deans expressed care for depth and not just breadth

d. What can we do to help the Dean make the case for the humanities?
    > Importance of pushing back on the narrative that STEM = job training; humanities = no job in all aspects of life

e. Spanish-section faculty has been dramatically reduced over the years
    > The number of tenure-track faculty has become very small
    > There has been a shift to STEM
    > Dean White says we cannot let us get to a critical state, but we are in one
    > The trend toward more humanities majors would encourage the hiring of more faculty
    > Supply-and-demand might not be where we should go—according to Dean White, it is not the only metric they will use
    > Economically speaking, internationality/globalization (in business & culture) seems to be where we'll go (strategy has to combined with the monetary reality)
    > We need to also focus on K-12; we don't want students to default into the language they studied when they were in high school
    > Qualitative + quantitative info from us would be helpful in this context

f. Question of trust/hacking (remote access of files) / question for ITS

g. Can we push back against the drop in tenure-track hiring?
    We don't have to accept, for instance, the drop in humanities interest as something
        unchangeable

h. Question of basic needs; and, morale

i. Pushing back against automation—how do we reaffirm language skills (esp. at the high
        school level)?
    NC is good at public outreach
    Cf., Project Oxygen (top-performing employees tend to be humanities and social sciences
        grads)
    Focus on human vs. technological

j. We've been losing grad students to Duke due to the stipend
    Base stipend should jump from 17 to 20k
    The current creates inequity, as grad students make far less than others their age in the
    workforce

2. Technology & Innovation Committee (Chair: Valérie delivered presentation on what follows)

a. Canvas's positive feedback:
        User-friendly and intuitive
        Grading is quicker/easier (viz., SpeedGrader)
        Easy to provide links to external sources
        Communication is smooth
        Discussion/video options
        Students can access feedback easily
        Customizable
        IT support

b. Difficulties include:
        Gradebook is not as user-friendly
        "Pages/modules" design is not engaging for students
        File updating is clunky
        Little flexibility
        Exam-creation difficulty

c. Teams or SharePoint will be used for non-class-instruction-based stuff

**3. Open-door day for creative projects (Hélène's idea to show introductory students what their
peers in more advanced classes are doing toward the ends of the semesters)**

4. New Accountant and Assistant to the Chair: Michelle Garcia

5. Shavon gave a reminder that Open Enrollment for insurance ends this Friday