



Seaver College Cabinet Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024 | TAC-100 | 2 – 4PM

Devotional

Zac Luben shared a devotional message.

Following the devotional, Lee Kats thanked Zac Luben for leading Chapel this inaugural year and commended his commitment and resilience throughout the year. He invited Zac Luben to say a few words about changes to the Chapel program in the coming year. Zac shared that Seaver has moved away from splitting Rise into two semesters, which has created the opportunity for welcome chapels, much like connection chapels which will run for 3 weeks. Starting in May 2024, students can register for chapel during registration.

Good News

Cabinet members shared good news stories from their respective divisions and departments.

Announcements - Lee Kats

Lee Kats mentioned that we will have a pre-tenure faculty workshop with Provost Brewster in the fall semester.

We will not be having a Cabinet meeting on May 20. Since this is the final cabinet meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year, Lee Kats took a few minutes to recognize Sarah Stone Watt and Daniel Rodriguez for their years of service as divisional deans.

Business of the College

Advancement and Alumni Engagement - Matt Ebeling

Matt Ebeling reported that the University is restructuring alumni offices at Pepperdine to be more unified rather than having the current six separate alumni offices, one for each of Pepperdine's schools that report to the respective deans. Hung Le was appointed as the Vice Chancellor. He has asked Matt Ebeling to lead and execute that strategy and explore some opportunities that may have been missed over the years. Matt and his team will still be engaged with Seaver Alumni.

Advancement and Seaver Board of Advisors Update - Mary Nell Johnson (Zoom)

Mary Nell Johnson is the Seaver advancement liaison for the Seaver Board of Advisors, formerly the Seaver Board of Visitors. The board chair is now Sylvia Franson and the board has three new committees including Mountain Rise, Dean's Excellence, and Corporate. Mary Nell shared that the next Seaver Board of Advisors meeting will be at the Westlake Village Inn on Friday, October 18th, at 10:30am. She asked the Cabinet members to consider other potential board members and explained the giving requirements. Alumni 5+ years are asked to give a minimum of \$5K a year, and for those 10+ years, are giving at least \$10K a year. She noted that the board is moving toward being more philanthropic, and it's been great to see the new and old members come together and learn from one another.

Associate Dean Transition and Seaver Belonging Plan - Kindy De Long

Kindy De Long shared her plans for a Fall 2024 sabbatical to work on a book contract. She will continue working in the Seaver Deans Office through June 2024. Her sabbatical will begin July 1st and it will go through December 31st. Sarah Stone Watt will be stepping in as the interim associate dean for the fall semester beginning August 2024 until Kindy returns in January 2025. Kindy mentioned that her assistant, Jack Moore, will be leaving in May for law school. She will be posting his position and hiring someone for the summer.

Belonging Plan for Seaver College - Kindy Delong

Kindy was the chair of the Seaver Diversity and Belonging Council and was tasked with creating a strategy for implementing the belonging goals of the University. The council will give this to Lee Kats for implementation.

AI Task Force - Kendra Killpatrick

Kendra Killpatrick noted that she and Kindy De Long are co-chairing a Seaver Taskforce and looking to establish a forward-thinking plan and act as an agent of positive change as AI affects Higher Ed much more broadly than plagiarism concerns. The task force will have four subcommittees.

- Faculty & Staff Workload - Kindy De Long
- Policy & Best Practice Guidelines - Kendra Killpatrick
- Student Success and Practical Applications for Students - Marissa
- Pedagogy & Curriculum - Ben

In response to a question about AI conference opportunities, Kendra offered to curate a list and share it by the end of the year. She also addressed a question about how the task force will collaborate with the academic integrity committee. Plans are not immediate but she believes the AIC perspective may be very helpful.

Academic Excellence - Kendra Killpatrick

Kendra Killpatrick reported that one of Lee Kats initiatives involved bringing faculty and deans together to discuss academic excellence. In the fall, together with Lee Kats, she convened a dinner with faculty (endowed professors, chairs, fellows, distinguished professors, deans) to discuss what academic excellence means to them and for Seaver College. In the spring, they held a dinner with student leaders to have them identify keywords that represent what academic excellence means to students. Discussion of those words resulted in a very robust conversation about wisdom and wonder. Very important to the students was relationships and community. The existence of those relationships does not mean that you don't have academic excellence, but you cannot have academic excellence without it. Kendra plans to have one more dinner in the fall and open it up to faculty who want to be a part of the conversation and ultimately create a two page white paper highlighting academic excellence "This is who we are, this is what we mean"

Faculty Position Requests for AY 2025-2026 – Lee Kats

Lee Kats noted that this year has had a busy hiring season. He thanked Joanne Blacklidge for coordinating approximately 30 interviews to date and expressed appreciation for the divisional dean's partnership in this process. Lee Kats will be sending an email to divisional deans with the timeline and details regarding submittal of their 2025-2026 full-time faculty position requests. Joanne will collect the responses toward the end of May.

Enrollment Update and New Student Enrollment Deadline – Kristy Collins

Kristy Collins shared that the Malibu Reception was an incredible success with a high deposit rate. She noted that families had a fantastic time. In a survey, parents and students identified how much they valued the opportunity to engage meaningfully with faculty. This was crucial to students making their decision. Kristy expressed how grateful the admissions team is for faculty participation. She noted that we received more than 50 deposits on the day of the Malibu reception even though the college has not yet received necessary FAFSA numbers. She is hoping the DOE will get their numbers out soon so that Pepperdine will be able to provide financial aid figures out to admitted students by May 3, 2024. Currently, Seaver has close to 1300 applications, just a bit behind last year.

International Program Update - Ron Cox

Ron Cox thanked the divisional deans for their work in providing feedback on faculty & residence applicants. He noted that IP is working on identifying faculty programming for Summer 2025. He shared that IP programs will start implementing new general education programming in the fall 2025 semester. He discussed the path IP and senior administrations are working on toward establishing an IP program in Japan.

Upcoming Events

Apr 8	Online Course Evaluation period began at 7am
Apr 22-25	Final Exams
Apr 26	Grad Fest, Mullin Town Square 9am-4pm Loqui, Smothers Theater 1pm Academic Receptions (per division) Baccalaureate, Firestone Fieldhouse 5:30 pm
Apr 27	Class of 2023 Commencement Ceremony, Alumni Park, 10:30 am
Apr 30-May 3	Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures
May 6	Summer Session 1 Classes Begin
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday

2024-2025 Academic Year

Aug 5	Divisional Dean Retreat (morning)
Aug 5	Seaver Cabinet Retreat (afternoon)
Aug 6-8	Seaver New Faculty Orientations
Aug 8	Workshop with J. Goosby Smith (afternoon)
Aug 12	Seaver Faculty Retreat and Division Meetings
Aug 13	New Student Orientation (6 days)
Aug 16	Provost's New Faculty Orientation
Aug 19	Fall 2024 Classes Begin
Sept 2	Labor Day Holiday
Sept 27	University Faculty & Staff Leadership Conference

Attendees:

Lee Kats
Paul Begin
George Carlsen
Kristy Collins
Ronald Cox
Kindy De Long (Zoom)
Dana Dudley
Matt Ebeling
Stella Erbes
Joseph Fritsch
Bradley Griffin
Connie Horton
Mary Nell Johnson (Zoom)
Kendra Killpatrick
Zachary Luben
Nicole E Marrs
Donna Nofziger
Daniel Rodriguez
Regan Schaffer
Sarah E Stone Watt
Robert Williams

Staff:

Joanne Blacklidge
David Holden
Elizabeth Richter
Melody Young