Task Force on Future of CLAS  
Minutes of May 21, 2012

Task force members attending: Bonnie Effros, Martin Heesacker, Jean Larson, Michael D. Martinez, Mary Watt, and David Foster.  
Task force members in absence: Robert DAmico, Carolyn Tucker, Rick Yost  
Liaisons attending: Scott Nygren (UF Faculty Senate), John Palmer (CLAS Faculty Council), David Richardson (Dean’s Office)  
Guest: Paul D’Anieri

John Palmer began the meeting at 3 pm with information on the vote for chair. The one of final two candidates flipped a coin and Michael Martinez became chair of the task force.  
Dean D’Anieri thanked the members of the task force for their willingness to serve and call for the task force to be bold. He spoke of the changes that have already happened to the college including the 20% reduction in faculty and the changes happening more broadly in higher education as public attitudes shift, funding dries up, and technology advances. To indicate the magnitude of the changes he sees coming, he called to mind what has been happening to print media. He responded to questions from various members of the task force, e.g. when asked about the audience for our work, he encouraged the task force to rally CLAS as a community to provide broad based support for our initiatives.

Scott Nygren shared perspectives gained from his position as chair of the Faculty Senate, which entails interacting with the President, the Provost and the Board of Trustees. The latter group recently heard that state funding for institutions of higher education is expected to continuing falling across the nation. Scott encouraged us to come up with a dramatic new narrative for the college to get positive public attention for the college. The goals are to change the public perception of the college, to provide a new rationale for donors to contribute to CLAS, and to attract a new donor base. Nygren encouraged us to consider consolidation rather than separation as we contemplate changes and shared the idea suggested by someone else of the consolidation of CLAS with the College of Fine Arts to form a College of Arts and Sciences, within which new collaborations might open up.  
D’Anieri answered a variety of questions and further discussion ensued.

As the meeting was drawing to a close we agreed to try to meet with Provost Glover in June to get his views on our strategic and fiscal environments, and our possible responses to them. We also would like to get Dave Richardsons input at the same meeting, if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Larson