

## MINUTES

Psychology Department

Friday, April 9, 2021

1:00 pm, Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/99482396746>

Present: Professors Beals, Ben Hagai, Blackman (chair), Blandón-Gitlin, Gerken Goetz, Lukaszewski, Marelich, Mearns, Morton, Navarick, Nguyen, Okado, Panza, Peissig, Preston, Roberts, Scher, Segal, Stohs, Sy, Trevitt, Zettel-Watson  
Student Representatives: Hassan, Ruiz  
On Leave: Professors Ahmed, Self, Espinoza  
Absent: Professors Alcalá, Mori

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Blackman, Chair.

### 1. Important Dates

Friday

May 14

Next Faculty Meeting

### 2. Announcements

- Dr. Blackman thanked the Psychology Day Committee (Drs. Ben Hagai, Blandón-Gitlin and Roberts) for doing a fabulous job with the virtual Psychology Day (average 150 participants at each of the events) and thanked Dr. Stohs for her presentation on internship opportunities and interviewing the internship site supervisors.
- Dr. Blackman announced good news of a \$25,000 donation to the department from an anonymous emeritus faculty member. The funds will be placed in an endowment account and the funds will be used for student scholarships and travel (starting next year). She thanked the Honors and Awards Committee for developing a new excellence in research award for graduate or undergraduate students. We are hoping that other emeriti faculty will contribute to this fund.
- Dr. Blackman congratulated Titan Excellence Award nominees: Drs. Alcalá, Beals, Coons, Mearns, Navarick, Okado, Roberts, Wagoner and professors Perry and Tawfik.
- Dr. Blackman announced that the current plan is for staff to return to campus on July 1 and that we should know more about what our fall classes will look like by the end of May. She indicated that the Provost mentioned in a Q&A that she is thinking that we will not have any social distancing but will be required to wear masks. There will be another forum with the Provost next week on 4/13 with a Q&A and everyone is welcome to attend.
- Dr. Stohs thanked the faculty that have signed up for summer and fall to supervise interns and indicated that we are waiting on CICE for more direction for fall.
- Dr. Beals reminded faculty about the Peer Mentor virtual office hours and asked them to encourage their students to use them for help with homework, writing papers--checking APA style, how to be a better student, how to study etc.

### 3. Minutes, M/S/P (Trevitt, Stohs) to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2021 as distributed.

#### 4. Committees

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** – Dr. Sy reported that the committee has a new name, to include Equity and announced that she will be sending out an announcement soon with links about the shared Google drive with a variety of resources.

**Commencement** – Dr. Ben Hagai reported that the committee met to discuss the options for commencement, either cancel it or have a virtual commencement (American Studies model)--video story for students, awards presentation, final countdown (picture montage), celebrity 4 minute segment. She encouraged faculty to submit feedback on their ideas. Dr. Mearns indicated that students are confused and think there is a live ceremony and information needs to be communicated to them. He also announced that he would like to have a live zoom hooding ceremony for the MA and MS graduates and would like to invite students from last year to participate as well. He will coordinate with Dr. Gerken and hoping for this to occur some time in May, possibly May 28<sup>th</sup>. This would be separate from the undergraduate virtual ceremony. Dr. Zettel-Watson mentioned that half webinar, half zoom participation (similar to Psychology Day) would be a good idea. Dr. Roberts indicated that someone from IT helped with that. Dr. Nguyen emphasized that the University ceremony is virtual, the College ceremony is virtual and that the graduates will only be present during the live stage walk (starting June 12). Dr. Blackman encouraged the student representative to share any input. Representative Hassan said she thought it was understandable to have 2 separate sessions. Representative Ruiz liked the idea of having faculty advisors say something for graduate students and that having a virtual ceremony would be desirable for those students that cannot afford regalia. Dr. Sy mentioned that having advisors say something about their students was a good idea, but should have a time limit. The Commencement Committee will discuss this further and asked faculty if they have an interest in making the montage video or if they know of a celebrity to let the committee know. Dr. Blackman indicated that a stipend is available if needed.

**Honors & Awards** – Dr. Preston thanked the committee members (Drs. Mori and Alcalá) for their work and mentioned that there were a record number of applicants. She announced the awards recipients: Outstanding Undergraduate – Alan Guandique, Applied Psych – Alia Shenasa, Titans Reach Higher – Arlease Franklin, Professor Loh Seng Tsai – Kayla Garner.

**Psychology Day** – Dr. Roberts reported that they have 2 lists of student names for extra credit and will compile them and get them out to the faculty.

**M.A.** – Dr. Gerken reported that the Outstanding MA student is Courtney Scaramella. He also indicated that they have 15 acceptances for the MA in the fall with 1 starting in the spring for a total of 16 students in this cohort.

**M.S.** – Dr. Mearns reported that the Outstanding MS student is Lindita Djokovic. They have 12 acceptances so far with 4 outstanding offers for the MS in the fall. They are aiming for 15-16 students for this year.

Student representative Ruiz inquired about how the incoming students will be matched with mentors. Dr. Blackman indicated that faculty sent zoom videos about their research and mentoring style to Linda Pabon who will share that with the incoming students. Dr. Nguyen asked if faculty can get a list of students with their research interests so faculty can reach out to them. Dr. Blackman will have Linda work on that. Student representative Ruiz also asked if a list of students currently working in faculty labs can be shared with incoming students so they can reach out to those graduate students.

Dr. Blandon-Gitlin referenced Provost Thomas' email about faculty not returning until August, which makes it difficult for faculty to work on their research (she cannot work on her research with multiple students until she returns to campus). Dr. Blackman indicated that we should know more by the end of May.

5. **New Business**

**Structural Inequities** – Dr. Blackman mentioned that the Dean tasked the Chairs with getting rid of structural inequities (assigned time for assignments for an indefinite period of time), making sure all appointed committee assignments, coordinators and assigned time are equitable. Dr. Blackman tasked the Goals & Directions committee with looking into assigned time positions and to set term limits. She would like to have guideline set up before for the committee assignments are determined (end of May), so the G&D should bring their recommendation to the faculty by the next faculty meeting.

**Search** – Dr. Blackman indicated that she has to report to the Dean by 4/12 what area and if we want to conduct a search next year. Dr. Mearns reminded faculty that the 2-year plan that faculty voted on was for a Clinical search next year and urged the Department to keep that plan. A discussion was held with areas mentioned in multi-cultural; clinical health disparities and community psychology. M/S/P (Sy, Nguyen) to conduct a search in Health Disparities (*17 for, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions*). A comment was made in the chat about concerns with the MS program to be resolved; Dr. Blackman said she would add the MS program to the next faculty meeting agenda.

**Curriculum** – Dr. Navarick indicated that the committee concluded the annual course reviews that were put on hold last year. M/S/P (Navarick, Zettel-Watson) to change the catalog description for PSYC 362 Psychology of Aging to emphasize late adulthood in the coverage of development throughout adulthood (*approved unanimously*). The application form for PSYC 494 indicates that the Department Chair will review courses and course plans for the assistant, and that a list will be created of approved courses. Since the UCA coordinator has taken over that role, this statement should be removed from the application. M/S/P (Navarick, Peissig) to rescind the 2007 policy and revise the application form (*approved unanimously*).

Meeting adjourned.