

MINUTES

Psychology Department

Friday, September 23, 2022

1:00 pm, H-604

Present: Professors Beals, Blackman, Blandón-Gitlin, Espinoza, Garcia, Gerkens, Goetz, Harrison, Lukaszewski, Marelich, Mearns, Navarick, Nguyen, Panza, Peissig (Chair), Preston, Roberts, Scher, Segal, Self, Sy, Trevitt, Zettel-Watson

Student Reps: Ferbert, Fernandez

On Leave: Professor Alcalá

Absent: Professors Ahmed, Ben Hagai, Mori, Okado

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

1. Important Dates

Friday	October 21	Next Faculty Meeting
Thursday	November 10	Final deadline to withdraw from classes
Friday	November 11	VETERAN'S DAY – CAMPUS CLOSED
Mon-Sun	November 21-27	FALL RECESS – No Classes
Thur-Friday	November 24-25	CAMPUS CLOSED
Friday	December 9	Last day of instruction
Sat-Fri	December 10-16	Semester examinations
Tuesday	January 3	Grades Due

2. Announcements

- Dr. Peissig welcomed our new student representatives Carissa Ferbert and Yuliana Fernandez, as well as Vanessa Pelayo-Cobian who will join the next meeting.
- Census date has passed. Students are required to initiate withdrawals, and any adds must be done as a retroactive add at the conclusion of the semester.
- Dr. Beals gave an update on the Police Chief search. There are open forums coming up with each of the finalists and Dr. Beals encouraged faculty to attend because it is an important role and what faculty say matters.
- Peer Mentors is fully open and Dr. Beals encouraged faculty to have their students take advantage of the service.
- Dr. Beals gave an update on the WoMen's Center, they are open in their new temporary space, LH-566. There is a new coordinator and Dr. Beals is happy with the progress but there is still work to be done. Dr. Peissig thanked Dr. Beals for the work she has done fighting for the WoMen's Center.
- Dr. Mearns warned the faculty that the DSS website is not working properly. Students are encountering lots of problems. The previous web manager left, and nobody there knows how to operate it.
- Dr. Marelich gave an update on the upcoming department PPR. At some point he will need to collect CV's so faculty should start updating theirs, put in some effort

and add lots of details. He will give everyone a head's up before he will need to request them.

- Assigned Time forms have gone out. Be sure to fill out the appropriate box and share what you are doing with your time. You might get the form a second time, if so, just fill it out again.

3. **Minutes** - M/S/P (Zettel-Watson, Self) to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2022, as distributed.

4. **Committees**

MS Coordinator Election – Nomination window for new MS Coordinator is now open. Candidates must meet the qualifications for the position, and they will serve a three-year term, with a maximum of two terms. The elected nominee will work with Dr. Means for two semesters to help with the transition. All nominations should be sent to Phil, and you may nominate yourself. Candidates will give a short speech at the next faculty meeting. There will be no MA Coordinator election this year because of the scheduled PPR in the Spring.

DPC – Motion was made to have permission to create an emergency online visit form for this academic year. The current form does not differentiate between in-person and online classes. Part-time semester returning lecturers must be reviewed by October 3. DPC will work with Dr. Sy to create a more permanent form in the Spring. (Motion passed). Dr. Zettel-Watson informed the committee members that are doing class visits that we have hired twelve new lecturers over the last two semesters, many are new to the classroom. All twelve will receive entitlement if hired for the Spring semester, and all we have available to use when determining to rehire is the class visit. Take the visits seriously, make it constructive and give good solid feedback.

5. **Old Business**

Tracks – The committee has been studying the difference between offering a Track and a Concentration. The Neuroscience team will be proceeding with a Track. To get a concentration approved it requires more work, there are more rules that need to be followed, more planning, and all concentrations must be submitted at once and they must share a common core of classes. Concentrations will appear on a diploma, but a Track will not, it is more of a recommendation of classes. There is concern that if we offer too many classes it will delay graduation for some students. Tracks do not have a specific number of units; it is more of an informal minor. Since Psychology is a low unit major there is room to add more classes, it can help with upper division units that students have to take. The Neuro Track is built, if anyone else wants to build a specific Track they can work with Dr. Roberts. One suggestion was to honor Track students at the Awards Banquet, make it a special achievement separate from commencement.

6. **New Business**

Online Teaching – Advising is getting more requests to articulate 201 & 202 equivalent classes from community colleges so they count on the student's TDA. Currently advisors are looking for lab hours, and many of the courses at the community colleges are taught online and do not include lab hours, causing confusion and anger from the students when they have to retake the class. Advising would like to clarify lab hours and focus on the course content rather than the format. The 201 and 202 coordinators will discuss and present new criteria at the next meeting to vote on. They already have a list of topics the students need to have covered; they will redefine the criteria to allow more classes to be articulated from the community colleges. Since the description of the course is not changing there is no need to vote. Dr. Espinoza will provide a list of content, send out for feedback, and update the criteria for the courses to be approved.

PSYC 341 – A motion has been made to change the name of PSYC 341 – Abnormal Psychology. The term Abnormal is too stigmatizing; the “Journal of Abnormal Psychology” recently changed its name for this reason to the “Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science.” This title seems too long and not as inviting for students. Regular instructors Dr. Mori and Dr. Ahmed suggest the title “Psychological Disorders,” as disorders match the content of the course. It was pointed out many textbooks still use the title Abnormal, and disorders can be just as off putting as abnormal, so not sure how this changes anything. The new title is brief and recognizable and something students can understand. (M/S/P Navarick/Gerkens)

400 Level Course Standards – The College Curriculum Committee is assessing the difficulty level of our 400-level classes, specifically PSYC 472. They believe the course is too thin, not enough peer reviewed articles, and the class isn't rigorous enough for grad students. They are asking what policy the department has for assessing the difficulty of 400-level classes and what makes them worthy of graduate credit? Dr. Navarick will be meeting with the committee, but he would like the department in agreement before meeting with them. Course contracts for the graduate students is a good starting point by making them more elaborate and concise. Currently the contracts ask for the grad student to complete an extra assignment or added length to an undergrad assignment, and these criteria won't pass with the Curriculum Committee. The work for the grad students must be substantially different. Adding a sentence to the contract stating that the student must demonstrate competency in at least two areas required by graduate courses could suffice. Dr. Navarick will send the form to Dr. Mearns and Dr. Gerkens to update the form so that it aligns with college policy.

Syllabus Updates – Everyone was recently sent a checklist detailing correction that need to be made to their syllabi. Do not take it personally, most faculty needed to make changes based on the updated checklist sent to us by the dean's office. The department is currently working with the college curriculum committee to get some course changes passed, and all submitted syllabi must comply with the checklist.

Online Classes – This discussion will be pushed to the next meeting. The department currently does not have a policy regarding online courses. Dr. Peissig would like the

department to start thinking about what proportion of classes they would like to be offered as online classes.

Meeting adjourned.