

JMS Faculty Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2016

In attendance:

1. Deni Elliott
2. Mark Walters
3. Casey Frechette
4. Janet Keeler
5. Rob Hooker
6. Casey Peterson
7. Monica Ancu
8. Bernardo Motta
9. Bahaa Gameel
10. Tony Silvia

For first part of meeting:

Sgt. Jonathan Dye

Sgt. Jonathan Dye presents an overview of safety on campus.

DE: If professors have a situation in classrooms when they feel uncomfortable, what's the best thing to do?

JD: We have panic buttons that go directly to our two-way radios. We get the room number and notice of an emergency. There are some technical shortcomings. Some have also been removed from certain classrooms. We also have a MoBull system for receiving text alerts of emergencies after signing up. Calling is also an option. Our response time is under a minute, anywhere on campus. The extension 3-4140. It's manned 24/7. And we know the campus. This is an emergency but also a non-emergency number. We're doing a beta test next month of an app called Blurt that would provide another venue for communicating with us -- texting, video, pictures, etc.

DE: Welcome back!

BG: I had a good summer. Finished my dissertation, and very happy to be here.

BM: I spent most of the summer here, teaching, and dealing with other projects.

MA: I've been advising and looking at the undergraduate program.

RH: Nothing to report.

JK: Had a successful study abroad program. We're looking to extend it next year. Taught journalism in the Movies and tapped into Bernardo's personal journalism movie collection.

CF: Taught advanced video storytelling back in May. Had a good experience at eLearning Africa in Cairo.

MW: I focused on research this summer. Working on three books this semester -- two under contract -- 40,000 words for the semester.

TS: Working on the Felix Cavaliere book. We're also going to schedule a series of conversations around that.

DE: My new guide dog arrives Sept. 6. I'll be here in and out and working from home. She's a 55-pound black lab. Her name is Koala.

The Professional Ethics project is going well. I had an initial meeting out in Stanford, and I've roped Bahaa into the project. (There are some mapping components.) We're applying for \$1 million for the next two years. Karlana is my grad assistant on this.

My book Ethics for the Digital Era is going into production in the next 30 days.

At the party Sunday, it looks like most of you will be there, plus Sophia and Martin. Frank will be there too. Our new VC for Student Affairs, Patty, will also be there.

DE: Outside Activity... I had a meeting with General Council yesterday. Any time we do something for which we get paid, we need to complete the outside exposure form. I sign off, Frank signs off. This is state law. TARs are also required by state law. Any time you travel professionally, even if you're not paying, you need to complete a TAR. If you have to file an outside activity form, make sure you also fill out a TAR.

TS: Does it apply to summer work outside a nine-month contract?

DE: This only applies during the contract year -- August 7 through about May 15.

Captioning: The way I understand it right now, we need to work with the distance learning course to make sure we're using something that integrates captioning at the same time. By 2020, everything at the university will be completely accessible. If there is anybody who needs captioning, if you have a student with a documented disability, then that course automatically needs to be done.

JK: Should we send an email out?

DE: I suggest that you put something in your syllabus, and also send out an announcement to see what the needs might be if you want to be proactive.

BM: We have people who come to talk to us in the classroom. Can we get captioning for that?

DE: Yes. Any materials.

CP: Some housekeeping. Most of you have the new phone directory. Undergraduate advising has been redone. We have a healthy graduate class.

DE: Please make sure that you have all the pieces for that. You can go to the college site or elsewhere.

CP: Don't forget that we need two syllabi for any cross-listed classes -- grad and undergrad.

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BM: We're planning to relaunch NNB at the new location. The idea is "Midtown to Midtown," centered around upcoming elections. On Sept. 29, we'll have a panel discussion. The room fits about 70-something people. It's from 6 to 8 p.m.

DE: Should we include a reception?

BM: We can look at that. There are 30 minutes before and after.

DE: Leadership will be there. Please plan to come, and see if there are course assignments.

MW: We're in the process of combining our graduate programs. This is really important to our future. It's not a cosmetic change but rather quite fundamental. Implementing it is going to be a challenge, but doable.

Our initial goal was to come up with a STEM designation for the programs. It's unlikely we can make that transition directly. We should do it in two phases. First, we should combine our programs into the DJD program. We have to go that way because it takes us closer to STEM. There's no guarantee that the board of governors will approve our request for the designation. Goal is end of spring 2017 semester. Lots of pieces, but we each need to take a part.

The accompanying handout describes the steps.

Students will need to pass a competency test or take a for-credit workshop. But they need to take it for credit.

We need to change course -- combine Theory and Research Methods under Research Methods. We need to add a thesis option.

We need to redefine the core of the program. We need to make sure the new program aligns with the goals of the STEM-approved degree Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia.

MA: Why combine the programs?

We need to maintain certain minimum graduations in a program to maintain it. A combined program would better serve the needs of all students by giving them more options. It will be all online or hybrid. We need to create an electives course map.

MW: Look for updates on Basecamp.

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DE: Competency credit and Poynter collaboration... we've been talking with Poynter about updating that course and give "competency-based credit" -- part of a new trend that's away from seat time (45 contact hours for a 3-credit course) and instead focuses on what they accomplish.

On Sept. 21 from 2 to 3:30 p.m., there will be a webinar offered by ACE (American Council of Education). We're trying to put together a group from USFSP who will attend.

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DE: Spring semester: Everyone will be here and on board. That locks us into courses we need to teach. My understanding is that some of the issues we faced around course enrollment in the summer have been resolved going forward. We'll have more flexibility going forward.

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CP: If you have

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Reports

BM: I was invited to write an article about NNB for the SEJ. We can now function as a complete and true newsroom. One group will focus on production. The second editing and management. The third will do research and support. The last will focus on publication and viz comm.

We'll have several ongoing projects for the class. And we'll have databases for future stories that emerge from this process. We're working with filmmakers on the "Black Pioneers of the Sunshine City" documentary. We'll be dealing with election coverage for Midtown, and we'll work on a Voices of Midtown project. Rob and I will meet next Tuesday after his class to meet on that. The Voices of Midtown project will come back too.

There's an event during class on Oct. 5.

BM: Deni and I presented to the COQEBS, and it was well-received. They have a meeting monthly before the NNB meeting. I'll be there, and I hope to get some students to attend, too. The schools involved in Journeys in Journalism are all in the mix. Lorien and I will work on curriculum-based projects for the program.

BM: One last project is a project to look at testing the water in Midtown, using a group of NNB students. We got money from RJI to do work in Columbia and here. We have a lot of factors in both communities that match the profile in Flint. This is a pilot at this phase that could become much bigger.

Internships

TS: We're in that phase when proposals are being finalized. We had a busy summer with 15 students. A few have needed to adjust their internship schedules to get the hours to a reasonable level (not full-time). There's another case where we're looking to create a paid position for one of our recent graduates.

What I'd like to do, ultimately, is to have a conversation about positions opening up in addition to facilitating internships.

A few students I've talked to had internships lined up and have decided to defer to the spring. I'd like to try to encourage students to complete their internships in spring and fall so we can have class time.

DE: We've been doing really well with people going from internships to jobs.

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MW: We have 24 students in DJD, including 10 new students. 19 in JMS, including 5 new. 13 in Food Writing, including 4 new. Casey P. did a great job recruiting this summer. We had an incredible percentage who inquired who didn't end up following through.

MA: The Fuse Program is an initiative between SPC and USFSP. It entails certain undergrad classes being taken at SPC, and certain classes here. So, MMC2100 would be taken at SPC, and JOU2100 here. Over the coming fall, we will negotiate the plan with SPC for final approval.

MA: Over the summer, I had so many emails from students who are having two recurring problems: Some are well advanced -- a few semesters from graduation. They're getting close to working or getting a job, and they're having scheduling issues. Here are the rules, according to the catalog: Students can transfer up to 22 credit hours to get a journalism degree. USF requires at least half the credits here. Classes such as law, JOU2100, etc. can be transferred. Senior Seminar is a unique class -- would we accept a substitute for this if students found an equivalent class elsewhere?

We also have students who want to come into the program with a GPA lower than 2.75. Other programs require a 2.5 The exceptions are us and graphic design, which requires a 3.25.

We've made exceptions, and the graduation GPA is 2.5. Should we reconsider the 2.75 requirement?

MA: Caps for online classes: We may want to decrease these to have more equal distribution online and face to face.

We're going to try to schedule an orientation between 4 and 6. Anyone teaching these days?

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JK: Food Writing is growing here and there. We're starting to get some more notice from the outside. The Dali has approached us related to a new exhibit they're running. They want to see if our students are interested in getting involved. The MFA has also approached me about culinary programs. There's a presentation on Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. In terms of faculty advising assignments, we have students getting both the grad degree and the FWP. These students need to focus on food for their final projects.

There are also students who are just in FWP also taking online classes.