

JMS faculty meeting Fri Sep 16, 2016 (9-11am)

Attendance: Ancu, Silvia, Elliott, Walters, Motta, Gameel, Keeler, Campbell. Guest: Joan Eldridge.

Discussions

1) CAS Academic Advising (Eldridge). Update on FUSE. First FUSE students starting this semester. One mass comm major will visit campus 9/30, 9:30-1pm. Ancu will be part of the visit, met with the student.

2) Senior Seminar (Ancu). Some students asking for alternatives to this class due to schedule, work constraints. Can we allow them to take a comparable class somewhere else and transfer the credits? Keeler, Motta, Silvia: class is more than portfolio-building, it's opportunity to network with professionals in the area, develop last set of skills, get coaching on how those skills are transferable to other career fields beyond journalism. No decision made on allowing class replacement. Faculty agrees to allow students more time to take it, switch from take it only during your last semester to take it during the last 2 semesters. Starting in Spring 2017, students will have that option.

3) Min. 2.75 GPA requirement for admission to department (Ancu). JOU requires 2.75 min. GPA, but only 2.5 GPA required for graduation. Should we consider lowering the admission GPA to match with graduation requirements?

Pros:

- might increase enrollment; some faculty feel higher GPA keeps people from getting into the program, they go to English instead.

Cons:

- lowering standards

JOU doesn't have hard data on whether higher GPA is a barrier to enrollment or not. *To be on the agenda for next meeting.*

3) Caps for online classes (Ancu). Online classes are overcrowded and take away from enrolment in face-to-face classes that follow in the next semester. Standardize caps for online classes. One option is to match online caps to caps of caps for on-campus class. Ancu and Silvia will look into it and present a proposal to the faculty.

4) Student Awards (Silvia). This year's KTA ceremony will have more inductees than usual because we skipped the fall and summer graduates in the last year. Announce awards and award competitions online.

5) Merging Graduate Programs (Walters). Making progress, paperwork is moving with help from Grad Studies and Donna Knudson. Walters putting the paperwork on basecamp so that faculty can contribute edits to the new admission criteria.

6) Community Journalism (Motta). How to engage more faculty, students, and the community? Motta proposes a research initiative that would bring faculty and students together, on topics of interest to community such as food topics, water and environmental concerns. Create something called Faculty research Groups, and use NNB as a computer lab for research related activities. For instance, it can be used as data lab to collect and analyze data. Involve the food writing students too, and create community journalism series centered on research and investigative. Motta wants to see NNB move from solely a publishing port to more rounded community journalism work. Combine reporting and research. More topics: accessibility; technology gap. Encourage students to consider ARPs, theses related to community journalism in Midtown.

7) Equipment needs (Motta). We either need to buy enough equipment to support students in multimedia production classes, or ask students to buy their own equipment. Motta: buy their own, as a requirement to being a JOU major. If they have the equipment, students will use it more. Ancu: Reluctant to create another barrier to admission. Not enough classes require production equipment. Elliott: We have 13 cameras, let's see if we can buy to have at least 20 to support a full class enrollment. No decision reached. Keeler & other faculty: PRW107 is outdated and noisy. Can we put a TV in with a cable subscription, turn to news while in classroom for study purposes? Emergency Phone in the room is missing.

8) Fla. Universities collaboration (Gameel). Will start a research effort with FIU in data visualization class. Maybe create map of poverty, ask students at other universities to do the same with data in their geo area.

9) Competency-based credit (Elliott). Dean's office looking into the possibilities of offering academic credit to students for extra-curricular experiences, professional experience, community service, etc. CAS Advising said this would be very difficult due to specific legislation in the State of Fla. Dean, chair to attend a seminar on this topic Wed. Sep 21, 2-3pm.

Regular reports

10) NNC (Motta). Motta authored article about NNB to be published in SEJ journal. Midtown by Midtown event 9/29, 6-8pm, event about issues affecting Midtown. Faculty should be present, invite students and all interested and relevant parties.

11) Internships (Silvia). 16 in the summer, only 4 Fall 2016 but overall numbers constant for the year. How can we encourage more internships during regular semester and away from the summer?

12) Food writing program (Keeler). Only one other food writing program at another US university. Our program is unique. Keeler working on symposium to bring food writings, magazine and cookbook writers on campus, let them know about our program. The idea is that could help us promote it. Chapter of Spoon university starting on our campus, food bloggers wanted. Can we advertise our program on Spoon U?

13) Study abroad (Keeler). Summer 2017 program open to 2-4 non-student adults. More details later.

14) Student research initiatives (Gameel). Looking into creating a technical class on data visualization, with statistics and programming. What other majors on campus could be interested, to market to diverse student majors?

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