

# Fall 2018 Faculty Meetings - Sept. 7

## In Attendance

- Deni Elliott
- Mark Walters
- Stephanie Fuhr (First Segment)
- Joan Eldridge
- Casey Frechette
- Bernardo Motta
- Chris Campbell
- Elliott Wiser
- Rob Hooker
- Tony Silvia
- Janet Keeler
- Monica Ancu
- Nancy McCann (First Segment)

## Minutes/Summary

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NM: I'm trying to see how to bring stringers into NNB. Focused on people who want to do reporting and write about their community. I'm doing a business plan on how to make that happen. I want to make you aware of what I'm doing. Bernardo and Rob are on my committee. I'm trying to understand if there are similar programs. Who might participant. How we'd handle people without training. Funding.

### ~ NEW RESTRICTIONS ON SWITCHING MAJORS ~

JE: Things are becoming more restrictive, and it's hit us hard in advising and will likely get worse. Our policies must match Tampa's. They monitor students closely and want to get them out the door. Freshman get eight semesters — four calendar years — to finish (not counting summers).

So, if a student wants to change a major, we can't allow if they can't switch and finish in the same time constraints.

With transfer students, they get four semesters. We have to check when switching students to majors that might extend before the limit.

One fallout: Minors may not be around longer, unless they are declared very early on. And transfers must declare majors in their first week and then stick with it. Double majors must also be finished in the same time period.

DE: Two metrics we really need to be concerned with: **Retention** of first year students into second year (sophomore fall) and **four-year graduation rate**.

MA: What about taking courses across campuses?

JE: For now, 50 percent of credits must still be taken at “home” campus, until 2020.

TS: There’s research that shows that students do change majors?

JE: Yes.

DE: People teaching our entry classes should look for ways to solidify majors.

JE: It’ll be a lot easier to go from a larger major (like mass comm) to a smaller major (like English).

DE: What if students are willing to take extra courses to make it happen?

JE: Doable but you can only go up to 18 hours a semester, unless it’s an overload.

#### ~ **SUMMER 2019 SCHEDULE** ~

MA: For next summer, idea is to be minimal in what we offer. We’re lowering the cap on Mass Comm and Society overall to promote enrollment all semesters. Also lowering caps on Blogging and Movies to encourage students to pick up a range of electives.

We want to try to keep this schedule more or less fixed.

Summer schedules do Sept. 21.

CF: What impact might a minimester class have?

MA: In May, it will eat into enrollment in for electives in the summer.

#### ~ **PATH FOR STUDENTS IN JOU/MMC 2100** ~

JK: What should students in JOU 2100 take next semester...they’re asking these questions now. WHEN do they need to take Multimedia Reporting?

MA: It’s a requirement for students who started in the fall.

JK: So if they’re taking MMC 2100 this semester, they’ll take Multimedia Reporting next.

JE: Everyone will need Advanced Reporting to take NNB.

## **~ DROP-OFF OF POTENTIAL MAJORS / STUDENT SUCCESS ~**

JK: We dropped from about 50 in MMC 2100 in spring/summer to 20 in JOU 2100 this semester. I think the big issue is they don't have the 2.75 GPA.

DE: Everyone of us who has any contact with students in any way is responsible for student success. I'm checking in with 18 FTIC students to make sure everything is going for them, and there's research to suggest that personal touch makes a big difference.

If you have a student that doesn't show up, don't just deduct points — reach out to the student. There will come a time when chairs will need to account for every lost student.

We need to retain and graduate as many students as possible.

## **~ CONSOLIDATION ~**

DE: Sept. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the USC is a town hall meeting on consolidation — the one time faculty and staff have a chance to raise concerns, ask questions and have a voice.

Very important to be there if at all possible.

Regarding T&P, Bernardo, Bahaa and Monica are looking at departmental criteria at the Zimmerman school to make recommendations on drawing standards into alignment.

One recommendation I'm making on a subcommittee is that people who joined the campus before fall 2018 get grandfathered in to the old standards.

## **~ COURSE LOADS ~**

DE: Last spring, Provost Wilcox sent a memo about 3/3 course loads. We've been fortunate in Arts and Sciences as we're taking some time to make these changes. Other colleges have already made the switch.

Idea is that everyone starts at 3/3 and then can, potentially, get one or more reductions based on various criteria.

This will go into effect as of spring 2019.

Waiting for final approval on criteria for "research active," but we should have it soon. That would qualify for a 1-course per calendar year reduction, or if "research productive," a 2-course per calendar year reduction.

There's a form to fill out to apply for reductions.

All this is due by the end of September.

And this will be reconsidered every year.

**~ FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR ~**

DE: I'm sure everyone has met Elena, our Fulbright from Siberia. She's working to develop curriculum. I'd like to encourage you to invite her to your classes.

**~ DEPARTMENT FUTURE ~**

DE: To summarize: The plan right now is that this will be my last semester as department chair. Mark will take over as interim chair in spring, Casey Frechette as chair in fall.

I'm teaching online in the spring, and then off site research in fall 2019.

**~ FACULTY RETREAT ~**

BM: We have many new courses interlocking in many ways. Idea is to get together to discuss how we're teaching our courses, and how we can create consistency and synergy across the board.

The idea of the retreat is to create time to sit together to discuss these issues.

MW: How long?

BM: Half day perhaps, on a Friday, say 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**~ HOUSEKEEPING ~**

DE: Some housekeeping notes from Casey Peterson: New rule: Students must have applications four weeks before travel occurs if seeking money from CAS. Front desk: If GAs assigned to you, they are still working for you.

**~ REGULAR REPORTS ~**

*Graduate Program*

MW: New and stable place for the DJD program. Enrollment continues to be good. The one thing that was upsetting, however, was the number who people who applied and then decided they didn't want to come. I think we do a very good job encouraging people to apply. We don't follow up until we find out that perhaps they applied but didn't register. We may have lost close

to have our applicants this time around. I'm going to check with the graduate program and see what's going on. They may be losing interest for one reason or another.

We used to have a budget to do the entire process ourselves.

DE: Concerning undergrad students, when people apply but don't finish applications, folks reach out, make calls, etc. Perhaps that's a model we can follow.

EW: I'd be happy to help with this as well.

### *NNB, K-12, Community Outreach*

BM: I've been approached in last few weeks by people who want to give money to NNB. We got a good group of interns for the history project, and that's attracted interest from people who have been wanting to do the same thing.

Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., we will launch our giant database and interactive mapping tool. Project is called "From Pepper Town to Midtown."

We also have a health reporting project with AHA. Casey Frechette's Video Storytelling class will be helping with the technical aspects.

Also working on a project involving Spanish translations and reporting.

And there's a science and environmental reporting project connected to the Institute for Gulf Studies.

Also have an investigative data journalism project underway. They will help with all the other projects, providing support to students.

Last thing is what Nancy discussed earlier — providing training for citizens who want to do journalism.

### *Internships*

TS: We have 15 interns this semester, and we had 10 over the summer. Many this semester working with Bernardo. Required to post to Canvas. I suspect the spring will also have good numbers. Firing on most cylinders, maybe all.

BH: To add, still looking for any students with website knowledge, as a volunteer now, and maybe an intern next semester.

### *Food Writing and Photo*

JK: A couple of new students this semester. Tampa has a food studies minor, so we're seeing if they want to add our Food Writing class as part of their curriculum. Working with Donna Knudsen if we can get our courses listed alongside Tampa offerings. I don't think there's a publication in the area that doesn't have one of our graduates on staff.

### *Student Research*

BG: Worked with a student over the summer doing a comp exam focused on VR and now submitting work to CJR.

For "Telling Stories with Data" undergraduate students presented their findings, and I'm working with them to present at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the spring.

### *ONA/ASSESSMENT*

CF: Students meeting weekly, now Thursdays 5 - 6 p.m., soon Mondays. Very likely will go to ACES Providence March 28-30. New assessment / data collection process coming this December.

### *GEN ED*

MW: In short, we will be adopting Tampa's approach to Gen Ed. Some courses will gradually be phased out. Many students will be coming in with those skills. They'll need one three-credit course in individual/practical skills, one in personal/social responsibility and one in integrative/applied learning. These changes will be coming soon. One question that's not clear is whether we'll lose MMC 3602 as a gen ed class. If it goes to the bottom tier of the map, it will eventually drop off the map. These will be offered both online and in-person. So this could be a way to rack up a lot of student credit hours. Much will depend on the process though.

DE: Next meeting, on the 28th, we will have a T&P subcommittee report. Report on the retreat.

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EW: If you ever want to do a free focus group with your students to gauge their feelings, I'm happy to do that (grad students, undergrad, etc.). It's 326 in the Business School. Eight to 10 students needed.

DE: Could be a great thing to do prior to the retreat.

### *NEW BUSINESS, ETC.*

TS: I'll be bringing Sports Journalism students to the Trop for a big day of activities, the first of several trips to major league teams on Monday, from about 3:30 p.m. onward.

*GOOD OF THE ORDER*

CF: First book was published over the summer.

BM: Indhira and I have an article coming out in an international Portuguese/English magazine. I have a book chapter done as well.

MW: I have a chapter coming out on wildlife.

BG: Manuscript submitted, hopefully to be officially accepted soon.