

JDC Faculty Meeting – March 29, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Present:

Bahaa Gameel  
Mark Walters  
Monica Ancu  
Casey Peterson (minutes)  
Bernardo Motta  
Tony Silvia  
Janet Keeler  
Rob Hooker

Consolidation

MW: Last we saw was a memo to align programs with Tampa, but then we determined we'd not be separate programs, but rather the same program with separate tracks that would cost us accreditation. Can't have some accredited and some un-accredited programs under one umbrella.

We sent a memo to their provost's office. They responded suggesting separate B.A.s in journalism (us) and broadcast (them), under the same CIP. That won't fly, but they don't yet accept the ACEJMC argument that they have to be separate tracks. We provided them language from ACEJMC and are having them respond directly to Tampa's memo.

Then what's the solution if ACEJMC says we can't be under Tampa's umbrella? We'll need a separate CIP, much like our grad program. That'll be our argument to Tampa.

Will the new CIP be a STEM CIP? That's what we're hoping.

Tampa has a history of rocky relations with ACEJMC, which could be informing Tampa's reaction to this process.

We are (1) getting a memo from ACEJMC saying what Tampa is proposing won't work and (2) beginning the process of arguing for a new STEM CIP.

Talks are proceeding, and the vice provost in Tampa is in direct contact with us.

TS: Someone in administration needs to step up and declare accreditation is either important or not important.

MA: Some background. We got the email around March 20 saying they want all programs with overlapping CIPs to begin curriculum consolidation. Now there are curriculum integration/alignment committees. We have to put together this committee. From our side, it's Mark and Casey, with Monica assisting. From Tampa, it's Kim and Wayne, probably with Wendy Whitt assisting. All the work has to be done by April 22, including minors and certificate programs.

Not only do we have to list the courses we're going to teach, but we have to assemble an SLO report for each major, receive feedback from students, alumni, employers, career centers, graduate professional schools. Explain we implement experiential learning within the major, describe how we'll meet student demands, make 4 and 8 semester course plans, consider textbook affordability course by course, etc. etc. etc. – all done by April 22.

We determined that if we align the curriculum with Tampa, our classes will be accredited and Tampa's won't be. If a student takes an unaccredited course in Tampa, how does that work for us?

TS: What about students now who take, for example, classes at SPC?

MA: Now, they have to take a majority of courses on this campus. If we align, that rule wouldn't necessarily be so.

Whatever we determine before April 22, it goes to an ad hoc faculty senate review, but we don't know who is on that committee.

BM: All this extra, unpaid work – Can we just not do it?

MW: The mandate says the final structure “up to the unit,” so instead of our arguing to keep the accreditation, higher powers would need to determine why we shouldn't.

MA: Tampa is phasing out their two journalism tracks (magazine/editorial).

MW: In terms of content, that makes us separate, but it doesn't solve the problem of a shared unit structure.

MA: The vice provost wants to put all programs under the same unit, which would be perilous for us. According to ACEJMC, they won't accredit any unit less than a department – which is advantageous for us. Hopefully that language is in the memo they will provide.

JK: But this is all undergrad, right? Our grad program has its own CIP.

MW: Yes.

BM: Based on all the plans we've seen thus far, it seems they want to make us something **other** than a department.

MW: Yes, but we could be put “under” Zimmerman School with a dotted line reporting structure.

BM: The main thing we need to argue is that we need to retain our departmental name.

TS: It would be helpful to know whether there's a precedent for this. Any other schools go through a similar process?

MW: Yes, we've seen different programs under an overall unit be accredited separately if they exist as departments with their own administration. ACEJMC is facing a number of units in the same boat as us.

BM: Re: T&P – if it's attached to the department and we become a non-department, do we lose tenure?

MW: No, T&P guidelines are being developed for the system wide that will apply to everyone. Requirements will change, but we will have some say as to what counts from campus to campus.

TS: Under consolidation, does tenure transfer if we become under Tampa's rule? In my experience, tenure isn't granted at the university level but at the department level. Theoretically, if they did away with this department, people would need to go to Tampa to ensure their employment.

MW: Under the tenure agreement, you can still lose your job if a department is eliminated...

It won't be an issue for us, since there **will** be a journalism department, whether it's here or in Tampa. I don't think it'll be a problem.

BM: They keep asking us to do more work, but we have nothing from them indicating what we're doing will matter.

MW: Fortunately we have been on our toes and we've kept up with what's going on. We may not win, but we are working.

### Crow's Nest

MW: Can we have a clarification about the budget?

RH: Here are the numbers as we understand them. Student government doesn't know exactly what the current year budget is. Executive branch and appropriations committee have different sets of numbers.

Every student pays \$25.63 in an activities and service fee per credit hours. Part goes to the USC automatically, and SG allocates the remainder as they see fit.

SG is lucky to have 600 students vote every election. To get on senate, students only need 25 votes. Most students don't even know we have an SG.

Crow's Nest showed up at the first hearing, and no one told us there was a dramatic decline in revenue and there would have to be cuts across the board. We showed up at the first meeting and they cut the budget by 25%. We've showed up at every appropriations meeting since.

The administration told SG they could dip into their cash flow reserve fund – money left over each year that went unspent.

The senate appropriations committee decided to use more than half of this money on itself – salaries, banquet, and retreat. Crow's Nest was allocated merely \$1275.

SG is dismayed that the CN is critical of them. They are cutting 3 positions from the CN and docking salaries of editors. Eliminated photography budget. Eliminated two editions of the paper and cut down the number of copies per edition.

MW: The bind we've always been in is that the CN is a student-run organization – this is an issue between the CN and SG. We've traditionally – and for good reason – not been involved. The adviser has generally always been from the department. How can we be sensitive to the paper's independence and try to provide some support?

MA: How can we put pressure on SG? What do they respond to?

RH: The budget has been approved by general assembly and sent to SG president. He can approve or veto. If approved, goes to administration, which can veto or send it back, which is what happened last year. We're hoping it goes to administration, but we don't know who that is. Hopefully they send it back due to the unequal distribution of funds, heavily lining SG's pockets.

TS: It seems we should figure out who the "administration" is.

MA: Is there a mechanism of response – i.e. student petitions?

RH: I doubt it.

MW: But we shouldn't be the ones to start it...

MA: I think this is an issue we could weigh in on based on the benefits to our students the CN provides (experience, articles, etc.). It's an issue of student success, not content in the paper.

JK: We can talk about the budget, but the issue is going forward when consolidated. Most students on the CN go on to legitimate journalism jobs. There are other publications (Connect, HerCampus), but they aren't providing journalism experience – often mouthpieces for the university. Can we offer credit for work on the CN?

TS: Is it possible to create a course (and I understand the "wall" there should be given funding sources), maybe a special topics or independent study? Can we give internship credit for working at the CN? Can we have our students do things off campus? At a previous university, I created a course that involved a small group of students producing a 4:30 newscast. The difference is that there was no SG funding involved.

JK: Could it be part of Advanced Reporting?

TS: If we could create multiple sections of Internships, we could have the course as it currently exists and another section specifically targeted for the CN. Whether that is allowable given the SG funding, I don't know.

MA: Nothing keeping us from creating a course where students produce publishable stories on topics of interest for USFSP for submission to the CN. It would be up to the CN editor to use or not use the content.

TS: When I teach MMC/JOU 2100, I tell them to submit stories to the CN, but I have no contact with the editor to have stories published.

JK: I'd want them to go to the meetings, too, as part of the course requirements.

TS: On second thought, I don't like the term "internship" for this. We should create a separate course.

BM: We should have a requirement in our program that students have a hands on experience (internship, CN, NNB, etc.) every semester.

MA: Problem is, a course won't solve the budgetary issue.

BM: If we get too involved, SG might further cut budget given free work. Can we contact the business school to figure out a way to independently fund the paper?

RH: Dewayne Issacs has a new assistant who says why not make the business manager for the CN a person in the marketing program who has to go out and sell advertising? SG responded by cutting the marketing position.

JK: Frankly the paper needs a stronger digital component. CN should have a more robust product than just a paper. This is unsustainable.

TS: Yes, this has been an annual fight.

MW: I'd love to see a student do a thesis or independent study looking at how student papers nationwide make the transition to independence.

TS: Why do students have to be paid to work at the paper? Why couldn't it become part of the fabric of the department?

RH: Because the department would receive pressure from administration.

BM: And by law we would be legally responsible for its content. We could create a newsroom that could be part of the program but that doesn't solve the issue of funding.

MA: Can we put together a letter to send to SG president educating on the importance of a student press? If he doesn't veto the budget, can we send the letter to the administration?

JK: A more robust publication will help us recruit students and help those students get jobs.

BM: We need to make a strong case for why students at the paper should be paid. Journalists don't work for free.

MW: Who should we talk to? Dewayne? Jake Diaz?

Everyone: Jake.

RH: A statement from the department would be helpful.

CP: Also note we are a member with the Student Press Law Center.

TS: How much money do we have?

MW: It's a dire situation. We're also losing GAs because we are adapting to Tampa's policy that all GAs need to teach. We had to ask WUSF to pay their own phone bill.

MA: The CAS budget is \$250000 over budget.

JK: SG president has 15 days from last Monday to make a decision, so we have to get this statement quickly.

TS: It seems that sometimes students don't do as well in classes because they're spending so much time with the CN. If we develop a class it won't put them in that bind.

MW: I think we should write it, but I will check to see if it'll be appropriate.

JK: I'll work on it over the weekend.

### Spring 2020 Schedule

MA: Negotiations for course loads hasn't happened. But based on Mark's discussions with everyone, here's what we assume (Ancu – 3, Elliott – 0, Frechette – 2, Gameel – 2, Keeler – 4, Motta – 2, Silvia – 3, Walters – 3).

If a faculty member qualifies for a course reduction in 2020, the college will have to hire an adjunct.

All: OK!

### Regular Reports

MA: Grad program doing fine. Open house was good. Luke Cross (first semester DJD student) was very good.

I was disappointed with the organization.

Undergrad program – nothing exciting happening. I need to go to MMC/JOU 2100 to do advising.

TS: Internships going well. We have biweekly meetings, students doing really well.

We have a graduating student who wants to do a summer internship. How can we make it so? Non degree seeking internship?

MW: We'll find a way to make it happen.

BG: Working with data visualization students to present at student research symposium. University offered free printing for projects.

TS: Six students are in Providence, RI at ACES. Met with news director and general manager of ABC 6 news. News director was really impressed with our students. Frechette and I put together a story pitch that the station may be shooting today.

JK: A few weeks ago Lane DeGregory talked to my JOU 2100 class and put it in her podcast.

What if we take this ONA newsroom experience and pitch it to other conferences? It's a good opportunity for students. Could be either a "business" or part of a course.

MA: Faculty Council. New T&P guidelines coming today. We also submitted a statement endorsing equity for faculty system wide.