

JDC Faculty Meeting 8/28/2020

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JE: Thanks for your help with overage seats. We are getting a lot of transfer students who are coming in with lots of credit hours and are in a position where they only can take things in the major. I've been working with Casey P to get closed section overrides. They've been admitting people up through this week and now courses are way over enrolled. The other big concern is that if they can't get into MMC 2100 at the last minute, they're in trouble. Then they compound courses and are in situations where they take NNB, Advanced Reporting and Senior Seminar in the same semester. What will we do moving forward to anticipate these situations? In some majors they are putting the cap lower than it truly is with the expectation of shoving more people in last minute. I know ACEJMC might be more lenient right now due to Covid, but moving forward they will likely push back on going over 20 in skills courses.

CF: Are we seeing an uptick in transfer students this semester?

JE: I saw an uptick in last minute mass comm students, probably due to the removal of limited access. The procrastinators with low GPAs used to not be able to get into the program.

JE: I will also need to know up front which electives people who haven't taken MMC 2100 or MMC 3602 can take.

JE: Availability in MMC 2100, JOU 2100 and JOU 3101 is the bottleneck. May need to consider lowering cap artificially on these transfer student courses. CAS needs to understand MMC 2100 is a class that will always fill last minute.

CF: One long term solution might be to argue to add additional sections of our core (JOU 2100). At some point, I think we would be able to fill those sections but there might be a period of time where enrollment is low until our cohorts catch up.

JE: The more online classes we have now that there is no residency requirement, the more they get snapped up instantaneously. And we can't restrict classes to St. Pete only, right?

CF: Yes, it's just too antithetical to consolidation.

MA: Tampa has a section of VIC 3001 that is a gen ed. We are running the same class but AFAIK my section isn't gen ed. Tampa students can take my class and count it for my major, but not as a gen ed, right? Until this semester, that was the understanding, at least.

JE: It is on the gen ed list, doesn't matter what campus. Information and Data Literacy. Not for continuing catalog students – only new ones.

MA: For certain? Then I need to change my syllabus.

JE: Most incoming students will be coming in with AA degrees, which shuts down the gen ed requirement. But that doesn't change the fact that some will need them.

JK: Talking about JOU... I had 19 in the spring and have 19 in the fall. Would a summer section attract Tampa students? Doing so might cannibalize spring and fall.

JE: Some students have been dropped by instructors because things went awry. We have been instructed to tell students who have re-registered to contact professors to re-add them to teams.

JE: Is Maxine Miller enrolled?

CP: Yes, in Photo.

JK: And Food Writing. She missed the first day attendance requirement.

MA: Andrew Dorian hasn't been active in my class. Probably going to drop him today.

JE: Some students have decided they're going to sit out this semester. If they aren't responding and haven't done the work, they should be dropped.

DE: I reached out three times before class began that explained USF policy on first day attendance... that seemed to work.

CF: The switch to the Outlook email has been problematic too. Students are still looking at their mail.usf.edu accounts and may not be looking at Outlook.

JE: Yes. I advise students to check the usf.edu emails as much as I can.

DE: This is something I want to talk to Brodosi about. Some students show up as "guest" in Teams. Some show up as "unknown users." It's hard to grade in-class exercises this way.

JE: I don't know how that happens, but some students do something wrong at orientation and have trouble accessing advising services in the system.

EW: Matt Carlson is in charge of Teams for all of USF. He is a good resource for any Teams questions.

JE: Props for having good relations with your Tampa counterparts, they have allowed a few students into courses. Bye!

CF: Let's check in with everyone. How are things going?

DE: The biggest issue is knowing when students are actually in class (guests, unknown users). Some students seem surprised they're expected to show up to class remotely. Otherwise everyone has been interactive.

JK: Yes, they're used to taking asynchronous online classes. It's such a weird semester for them, just have to roll with it.

MW: Things OK in my classes. First day attendance, only 2 didn't make it from 150 students. A bit uncertain how reporting will go due to Covid. I don't want to push them and make them uncomfortable so we will need to be creative.

BG: Going good. Only one student not active.

EW: Good. MMR is small (8). Still early though.

MA: Going well. Some technical issues in undergrad social media with locking modules but resolved. For social media, we are using Facebook.

DE: Brodosi told me to set up a link to Teams through Canvas. That's how they access the discussions.

CF: One problem is if the student accesses Teams through the browser, they won't have all the features as the app. The best way to pin students is via the participant list.

JK: If you have recorded the class and post the link, people not in the class don't have access – you have to manually add them.

CF: My impression is that overall students have been engaged and are accommodating to the variety of different formats we're using. Some are skeptical about remote learning but willing to give it a try. I am also gathering that some of our students are struggling with the circumstances that manifests in a bit of lashing out in communications. We need to be mindful of mental health concerns that are going to be more present than usual this semester. I know in the past we have had some concerns about the effectiveness of the SOCAT system. Can we get any information proactively from SOCAT folks? If you are dealing with any problematic issues, please let me know.

JK: This summer, I had a few SOCAT referrals that ended with incompletes. But the students seem to have vanished. Maybe if we give a student an incomplete we should refer them to SOCAT too.

CF: I like the idea of referring to SOCAT with an incomplete.

JK: I always feel sheepish when I make a SOCAT referral. So this semester I put it on my syllabus.

CF: Good idea to destigmatize the process.

CF: Wanted to provide the best budget update I can, but it's nothing more than what we've heard from the university. We are in a holding pattern until we hear from BOG re: the 8.5% budget cut that has been floated. Dean Eisenberg has been clear that protecting faculty and staff (including open lines) is top priority. It will be important to keep Bernardo's open line top of mind for the college. I am hoping a group of us can begin getting together on a regular basis to carve out our next steps for NNB, beginning with a job description for the position we'd like to fill. Won't be until after September that we have more clarity.

CF: Eric has mentioned on several occasions that any type of departmental structuring are nowhere in the plan or immediate range of options we would consider. I say immediate because units have been asked to forecast future fiscal year cuts, in some cases up to 15%. Bear in mind we are on a separate St. Pete budget, which is a good thing for us because of existing budget pressures and shortfalls that have been particularly acute on the Tampa campus. Our separate budget line is protecting us from some of that intense pressure.

JK: Janet, update for us re: study abroad?

JK: USF World has joined with SUNY Albany for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). I'll work with a university in another country to embed a project into the food in communication class so students will get international experience without having to travel. This will also expose more diverse groups of students to the international experience.

CF: Timeline on when students would be able to do this?

JK: Spring. The food in communication class will focus on podcasts, social media and blogs.

CF: Updated advising assignments will be sent out very soon. We have specific assignments for DJD. With Bernardo and Tony out this semester, we will need to shuffle undergrad and grad assignments. I'll send everyone their assignments, and if you could send them a quick note to check in and say hello it will be a good thing to do. We also have our new SMS messaging system.

CF: I'd like to see a few of us spearhead the NNB Planning Committee. First thing to tackle is firming up job description for the position. We have a template based on a Faculty Administrator role, and I think that's a good starting point for a teaching / project administration position. We

want to develop a custom job description based on that. If you're interested in being on this committee, send me an email. Earlier this morning, Tadlock sent out a diversity and inclusion task force update.

CF: We have a new(ish) website. We scored usf.edu/journalism. A couple of things to note: (1) there's a lot of old information on the site we need to go through and clean up, especially for our new undergrad program; and (2) we have nearly complete control of the site. Being on the main domain makes us more visible and discoverable.

DE: From the faculty credentials survey we got yesterday... is it possible to have something on our faculty and staff page where we can attach a CV?

CF: Yes.

CF: Re: the new undergrad program, that's an area where we need to update and correct the website. We're no longer a mass comm undergrad degree; it's a degree in digital communication with a focus on multimedia journalism. In the near term, as far as the mechanics of the degree are concerned, it's not too much different, right Monica? We are just better reflecting what we've been doing for a while now.

MA: The only major difference is that the old program is 45 credit hours, the new one is 48 credit hours. We added an elective. The hope is that when the university allows curriculum changes, we are going to add permanent course numbers for special topics courses.

JK: Are all the new students already under the new CIP?

MA: Everyone coming in since summer are in Digital Communication & Multimedia Journalism.

JK: Are we changing the name of the department?

CF: No. Still Journalism and Digital Communication. In the future, maybe there can be an alignment of what we call ourselves and what we offer, but for now it stays the same.

JK: Many students are still showing up in the USF Photo Roster as mass comm.

CF: I'd like to follow up on that.

CP: Lots of my students self identified as the new name.

MA: It could be that something didn't get updated on the back end of the system.

CF: One quick note on the undergrad program... we have good news about enrollment. It's up over last year, at a time when it's down pretty much everywhere else. Let's be aware of and ready to share this good news. We're on the cusp of moving into a period of expansion. One thing I'd like to highlight is what Elliott has been doing to bring focus on our faculty to high

school journalism instructors in Pinellas and Hillsborough. We want to establish connections with these folks to raise journalism educators in high schools that we are the destination for journalism and multimedia storytelling in the Tampa Bay area. We are compiling a list of contacts.

EW: We have a list of 44 high school journalism teachers in Pinellas and Hillsborough. Hillsborough list is a bit big so we will need to hone it down to find the right people. I've spoken to a lot of high school classes over my career and we need to expose these students to our program and keep them local. Hopefully eventually we can expand to Manatee, Pasco and Polk but now we are going to focus on Pinellas and Hillsborough as a pilot program.

MW: We have a good crop of students, about 8 coming in the fall. One change is that now that we have consolidated, we have an online admissions process in Archivum.

MW: Once we have admitted students, we found a list of ~4 people who had not yet registered for courses. We got at least 2, possibly all 4 to enroll after we followed up with them. I'm optimistic about our growth. We're in a great position in terms of our online offerings.

EW: Have we formalized any presentation to our senior undergrad program to promote the graduate program?

MW: We haven't. We should, and now we are in the position of doing something online.

EW: How do we reach out to the Tampa side?

CF: One thought would be to do it through student clubs. Something to continue to brainstorm. Keeping the website updated with what we offer would help too.

JK: Summer online electives are a good opportunity – a lot of Tampa students enroll in those.

EW: You'd start with the professors. A reminder in November / March would help. We should start internally, then go to Tampa, then outside of that. To me, internal marketing is low hanging fruit.

BG: One thing I do for Data Visualization and Telling Stories with Data, I have a flyer that Casey P shares with other departments and with Tampa.

CF: One thing about the schedule this semester is we scaled back on grad/undergrad dual listed courses. Continuing that separation will be essential if we want to market internally to our undergrads. We will need to be clear about what the difference is between the two programs.

MW: We are one university now. We need to look beyond our own program to see how we get this in front of Tampa undergraduates.

AD: One way you can let people know about DJD is by emailing them. That's how I got notified about the Tampa program. Also perhaps a story in the Crow's Nest.

EW: Do we have to advertise in the CN?

AD: I don't know, but don't think so.

CF: Aya, do you have a sense timing-wise about when people are picking up the physical paper?

AD: Stories go online Monday.

CF: Advertising on the website might be good too.

AD: We can ask Rob what he thinks and we can post on social.

CF: Mark, anything on internships?

MW: Nothing in particular. We are lacking a central point to send students to. There's a list of possibilities on the website.

CP: But nothing new of late because of Coronavirus. Students can go to Handshake or the CAS internship person.

MW: But no central person. People ask "what kind of internships do you have?"

JK: I'm going to have an informal workshop to have them start thinking about spring. We need to get them in Beginning Reporting to prepare for opportunities at WUSF (and others) in the spring.

CF: Updates on certificate?

JK: Nothing new. A couple of newbies.

CF: Any new research?

CP: Give me your syllabi.

DS: There is another David Snyder at USF Tampa. Be aware when you email me. Also, I'm the only one teaching face to face. Thanks to Chris and campus computing for all their help. More students coming to class because they see it's a safer environment.

CC: NNB went well. Nicole did a great job. Students engaged. Only one person viewed online.

CF: Good for the order?

DE: I'm in Montana until early January. I'm available, 2 hours earlier than the rest of you.