

JDC Faculty Meeting – September 25, 2020

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Casey Peterson
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CF: Welcome, and apologies for the calendar invite confusion. Let's begin with Joan and advising.

JE: Advising has undergone a shift and taken a business adviser and made them a CAS adviser. Now advisers shepherd students from their first semester until the end. Now no longer upper level advisers. Now if you are a Digital Communication adviser, you will be with students their entire time. Now Solitaire and I will be with them the entire way. Solitaire is on our ARC committee. We have a rule that you have 6 months after a semester to file a petition to do anything about that semester. Also important to remember that students with >60 hours have 2 withdrawals left – so keep this in mind with regard to COVID.

SK: I've been Joan's backup for journalism, so I have experience with your program. I've linked to the Tampa ARC program – fillable PDFs. Now, no more “deletions.” If you have a student who qualifies for a medical petition, SOCAT is a good option. They write a letter that can go along with a petition. That would be a withdrawal with cause (WC) instead of a traditional W. Contact me if you have specific cases. We meet Thursday afternoons. Tampa reps approve or deny petitions before they go to committee, but we don't.

DE: I have had two requests for late adds. One from another FL university as a “transient student.” I worked with him to tell him what he needed to do, but he couldn't afford the late add. I got another request from Tampa for an international student, but I told them they could not be successful at this point.

SK: It was probably an issue where an I-9 was teetering on getting kicked out of the country.

SK: If students don't attend (never), you can email the registrar and let them know and they will DA the student from the class (dropped for non-attendance).

CC: Is that for synchronous, asynchronous, etc.?

SK: All types. If they never attend, you can let them know.

CC: If I don't require attendance...?

JE: If they never submit anything.

CC: Is there a penalty?

JE: Nope. They get their money back. But it is only for students who never touch the class in any way, shape or form.

JE: I have a student seeking a medical withdrawal. I gave her a link to paperwork and referred to SOCAT. Can I send her to you?

SK: Yes, email me at casarc@usf.edu. SOCAT will be her best resource, but she can reach out to me.

JE: We continue to have our older catalog year students (2018, 2019). Their major is still Mass Comm with a concentration in JMS. Summer 2020 and after are Digital Communication and Multimedia Journalism. We're going to have both for a while, in addition to the Mass Comm minor. All 2020 folks so far know they are Digital Communication. There's also a Technical and Professional Communication major we have, which could confuse people, but it's more like an English major. The old and new programs look similar, the only difference is the new one is one class bigger. For 2020-2021 students, there is no DegreeWorks audit.

SK: Actually, DegreeWorks has a workaround. It's still delayed, but as soon as advisers test, there is a workaround to show new students their requirements even before the Registrar's office updates Banner. We are hoping it will be available in January.

JE: I need to know when we are looking at our new transfers who haven't taken the pre-core, which electives will we allow them into?

MA: If it's their first semester and they haven't taken prereqs, do they need electives?

JE: Yes, increasingly. A lot of transfers are coming in with at least 60 credit hours. In many cases the only things they have left to do are on the advising list.

MA: If they're already coming in with so many credit hours, I guess it's OK for them to be in electives.

SK: There's no exit requirement courses for 2020 students.

JK: Frechette, do you want to leave that up to us? I think they'd do fine in a food writing course, but not really a freelance editing course.

CF: That's helpful to know. Everyone teaching electives, let me know.

CC: Photo and video are electives where they don't need a lot of journalism work beforehand.

JE: For advanced photo and video, what about people who haven't taken photo or video 1?

CC: It's case by case. I'd need to talk to the student beforehand. In that class, enrollment is harder to get so please send them to me.

CF: I want to focus on the progression – photo/video 1 in the fall, advanced course in the spring. That would be ideal.

DE: The ethics class, for example, could be taken any time. This semester, I have students in beginning and advanced reporting and they both bring different things to the class. We should discuss which electives students should take when.

JE: Is the spring schedule set?

CP: Yes, in OASIS.

CF: Follow up on old vs. new majors: What's the ratio?

JE: Only new ones are transfer students or anyone who started as a freshman. So, new majors are a relatively small group so far. You should check with Susan Toler. I also see wait lists for the first time.

SK: Ralph Wilcox wants wait lists to go away.

JE: I also see that there are 4 or 5 courses set to be face to face. Is that what we think will happen?

CF: What you see in OASIS reflects the changes we made this week per the college guidelines.

JE and SK leave

CF: Wanted to touch on the SOCAT process and hear from anyone re: brewing situations. There is an uptick in a wide range of student concerns this semester, from issues of external pressure and issues of students becoming disruptive in classes. There is a general lack of awareness of some of the resources the university can supply. The best route to refer students is via Canvas.

CC: To what degree are we responsible for students not doing work? Teaching online, sometimes students disappear. What are we expected to do?

CF: There is a specific type of referral that discusses academic progress in a class. If there are 2 or 3 assignments in a row that haven't been submitted, that's a red flag. I recommend reaching out to the student at first. If you're still feeling like the message isn't conveyed, I'd complete that referral.

CP: I'd do it in advance of midterm grades.

JK: I let the students know that I refer them to SOCAT early.

DE: I've forced each student to meet with me for short 15 minute tutorials so I have one-on-one time with them. Once I make that expectation, it's been easy to make contact after.

CF: When concerns steer toward disruptive students or disrespectful communications, there are USF regulations that provide a mechanism for dealing with them. It's important sometimes to make students aware of a code of conduct within our classes – face to face or online.

BG: I have one student who picks and chooses which assignments he does. He only works towards the end of the semester toward getting a C. I'll try to reach out but I am not very optimistic.

CF: Let's talk about NNB and the search for an NNB director. I'm sure you've seen Currall's hiring freeze. At the same time, it's been made clear (including from Eisenberg) that exceptions can and will be made in the case of highly strategic hires. Seems to me that the NNB Director is such a strategic hire, and we need to be vocal about that. The best way to do that is to present a job description and hiring rationale at the USFSP CAS level and beyond. I think we have a good shot of moving forward on this. I asked Deni and Mark and Monica to brainstorm this job description language, based on Bernardo Motta's good work before he left.

DE: We put this together very quickly. There were two guiding principles in our development of the job description: (1) better to hire a non-tenure track director and (2) it's clear we won't be getting a senior editor who has been in the field for decades. We are probably seeking a mid to junior career professional. If we expect the person to teach, my understanding is that the person will have a master's degree. As for the justification, we can pull in historical USFSP strategic plans, but that probably won't help in the post-consolidation era. We need to have a bullet list in there about what will disappear if we don't get the hire at this time, focusing specifically on the diversity and inclusion initiatives of the university.

MW: Should the strategy be to feed this into the initiatives of the university? We should touch base with Cecil Howard in diversity and inclusion. We have a long-standing initiative just ready to be supported. At the last senate meeting, Currall highlighted diversity as a way to keep key faculty and keep along with AAU aspirations. Diversity is not on the chopping block.

CC: I think Cecil is no longer with the university.

CP: I don't know, but I think that position now reports to Tampa.

DE: Cecil is a good friend of the department, always very supportive. I recommend we get a document together and get Magali Michael on board and have her work at that level aside from us.

JK: Cecil is still with USF. He just moved to Tampa.

CF: Another potential point of contact is Elizabeth Freeman, senior adviser on diversity and inclusion. Making her aware of NNB via Magali and Eisenberg is going to be important.

MW: Even CCing Cecil may get them in the loop early.

CF: Cecil was also our liaison for our diversity award last year. That recognition also highlighted areas for improvement, so it's a good idea to reach out to him while officially moving the job description up the chain.

DE: In terms of initiatives that will cease, the best source of this would be Bernardo's mid-tenure review and annual review documents in terms of the incredible number of partnerships and initiatives that would go away without such a hire.

MA: Also, there's no special consideration for STEM programs? We have that card now.

TS: One thing I see in the job description: should we include the term – 2 year appointment? One year renewable? That's important for potential candidates.

DE: I'd argue for a 5-year renewable.

TS: Re: salary, the more information we can give candidates to self-assess, it's all the better.

DE: I disagree. We are talking \$60k?

CF: If we are looking at a faculty administrator position, it's lower. \$52-54k.

DE: The reason I wouldn't put the salary in the job description is because USF wants to promote the work they're doing in underserved communities. If we get someone really, really good, we can go to administration and tout the applicant.

TS: True. Administrations will find the money... if they want to.

CF: Let's get this document finalized and locked in by next week and I will submit to Dean Michael.

CF: We are a few months into consolidation. I was at a St. Pete CAS leadership team meeting yesterday. There was concern about how consolidation is going so far with regard to how St. Petersburg is being treated.

CF: Kathy Fitzpatrick shared a grant opportunity for community journalism, and it is essentially NNB. They are going to submit and there is no direct reference to us in their letter. There are benefits for us politically, and they want to hold workshops on the campuses for high school students. But, we would have no direct access to the resources on the grant because they don't want us to be co-PIs on the project. They're also the sole point of contact with the grantor. Feels risky to not be involved, but feels really risky to be involved.

MW: We should use the NNB hire justification as a way of increasing awareness of the unique things we're doing and unique partnerships we have.

MA: What exactly are they proposing for the collaboration?

CF: (1) Mentorship program for high schoolers. We could receive stipends for mentoring, but only as individual faculty. (2) On-campus workshops that are training and recruiting opportunities.

CP: Journeys in Journalism students?

CF: They're not that interested in their involvement.

DE: Have you asked Kathy how she sees us? Also, we really need to go after self money. I don't see a reason to partner with Zimmerman. We are essential and important.

CF: Kathy didn't realize we are the one department in CAS based on the St. Petersburg campus.

MA: That is surprising. She was apprised of the situation during her interview.

DE: How about inviting her to a faculty meeting? We can talk about our initiatives and understand how she sees us collaborating or working together.

CF: We can send an invite for our late October meeting.

TS: You were either approached for diplomacy or need. What do they need from us? What do they *want*? If it's a workshop on campus, that's probably the need.

MA: It could be because the Dean is asking for collaboration. They're big on involving more people and departments.

MW: What is Development's role in this? It also seems to me they came in late in this process. That suggests it was more of a diplomatic ask.

DE: We can always apply for grants and things without Zimmerman. We should all seek things we can do to show that our department is essential and important.

JK: Zimmerman School has a very robust Facebook page. We don't toot our own horn enough.

CP: We no longer have a Facebook page. UCM took over.

CF: Dropped a link in chat to the 2020 Challenge Fund for Innovation in Journalism Education, but I have to go. Will follow up via email.

MW: Google is offering emergency local news grants. Something we should look at. Will send links to that.

DE: I will make the list of initiatives lost if NNB ceases.