

Department of Journalism and Digital Communication Faculty Meeting
Friday, November 5, 2021

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Casey Peterson
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CF: Welcome, everyone. We have a final faculty meeting on Dec. 3, when we will later that day have our end-of-semester gathering. Let's jump in. I want to make sure everyone knows what's going on with the prerequisites?

JE: We were given a list from Tampa of courses they're updating prerequisites for. Among them is MMC 2100, which has a prerequisite of MMC 3602. Trouble is, we have always encouraged students to take those two together along with VIC 3001 in the first semester. 3001 now has a prerequisite of MMC 2100 and MMC 3602. This puts another stacked prerequisite in the lineup, which is to the detriment of transfer students who have 72 or more credit hours when they come to us. In their first semester, they could only take 3602. Then in the second they could only take 2100. My question: who decided this? Do we want to get a blessing to do prerequisite overrides? What happened to the vetting process? We have been told preliminarily that we can do overrides for spring, but not after, unless we reach some other agreement.

CF: This is a situation where there are a couple of layers to the problem: (1) the lack of consultation in how the decision was made and (2) long-term, we need to find a way to address this. We have an entirely separate major, but if a prereq is changed, they affect us because they're baked into courses themselves, not the majors they appear in. I think there may be a few ways to resolve this long term, but the key is to do them so they don't slow down our transfer students.

JE: Advising is happy to do overrides but we need the blessing to do them. If they say no, the only other thing we can do as a department is to offer core classes during the summer. I don't know if that is feasible, economically speaking.

SK: When you're talking to your counterparts in Tampa, you may want to mention the state metric for funding that involves transfer students. If we prolong their time with us, it would negatively affect that metric.

CF: Good point. We want to make sure students are progressing in a timely manner.

DE: Yes, “finish in two.”

JE: Other update from advising, Peterson has helped with coding changes in Banner. We had to clean up because of new codes. Questions for us?

CC: Are students enrolling earlier this time?

JE: Enrollment started Nov. 1. Honors students, athletes and high GPAs are enrolling first. Then it goes by credit hours earned. Transfers won't enroll until Nov. 23, assuming they have met with an advisor. Those with AAs can enroll Nov. 12. I know Chris is doing advanced video, so anyone with photo, regular video or with experience can get in. Social media is already closed. We will send students with no other options to the department.

DE: I'm worried about the new transfer metric. If we want them to finish in two, and we can't take people who are finishing their AAs now, it seems we are creating obstacles for ourselves.

JE: Which is why we need the green light to do prerequisite overrides to speed up people.

CF: Monica brings up a good point: we should make curriculum changes that give us our own set of course numbers. There have been and will be other situations where a change made in one unit ends up affecting another that uses the same course. We had started the process and then consolidation presented challenges, but I think we have always had the plan to move into a refreshed set of courses for the new major.

JE: We are doing a lot of drop-in advising where they can join our virtual queue in Archivum so students don't have to sit and wait in our office.

CF: Update on scholarships. We got clarification from the college and realized that the Dardenne scholarship and Dardenne award are separate. One piece is the award itself, recognizing Humanistic journalism (not obliged to give it every year). Separate is the scholarship, which can help a student with tuition. The two recipients need not be the same student, and we don't have to have the same review committee to vet the scholarship winner. We opened up the application process for the scholarship and we got six applicants. We will kick that over to our scholarship review committee, Mark and Monica, to see who we want to give the scholarship to. Moving forward, we will treat the award and scholarship as separate things. We are still in an off-cycle award phase, but next year we will award scholarships on the regular cycle, reviewing in April/May.

EW: How are we making students aware?

CF: Emails, and special pages on the website. Going forward, we can share these opportunities with students in our classes. I know we have talked about the idea of a regular newsletter, which could be a good venue.

EW: Are all professors on the emails?

CP: Not yet but will do.

CF: Another opportunity: Hearst Scholastic Journalism Awards. Award season is kicking off now. It's a good program that is vast: 14 different awards students can apply for November-May. Good thing is if we enter student work, the department gets \$250 per entry regardless of how the work is judged. Of the 14 different award categories, with the exception of television, all match up well with our curriculum. For example, next week is a deadline for photo, later this month is narrative video. The best way to handle this is to sync awards with classes.

CC: Do the works have to be published?

CF: That depends on the particular category. For the upcoming photo category, they want four different photos, one of which must be published.

CC: None of my students are published yet, despite my begging them to go to the Crow's Nest.

CF: Let's chat about that point and guide our students toward publication, in the Crow's Nest and beyond.

CF: Another update: we have the science journalism/communication searches underway. Mark?

MW: Reminder, we had ads for two positions posted that ended on Oct. 31, but I was told we only had 16 applicants at that point. So we extended the search for another month, which keeps us within our hiring timeline. I also requested a budget to advertise in some paid venues. I was told there wasn't money for that, but I made the request again based on the extension. The request is with Jennifer Woroner now and she is reviewing. I am hoping we can get the ads in digital publications ASAP.

DE: When you talk with Jennifer, I suggest you connect them with my office.

MW: Will do. It's worrisome that we don't have many applicants, but it may speak to the newness of our academic focus.

DE: I also suggest you talk to the new dean in the College of the Arts. One of their new graphic arts hires is doing animation and science communication. If you connect with Chris, maybe all three of these positions can be advertised in the same venue and it might be less expensive.

CF: Might also be a good time to redouble our efforts to reach out to our respective networks to make sure our colleagues know about the opportunities. Over the summer, the pool was definitely more than 16, right?

MW: Yes, but the vast majority were unqualified either academically or professionally. Finding someone with a terminal degree who is also practicing is tough.

DE: The good candidates we had in summer were more medical communicators than environmental science communicators.

MW: Right. This is breaking new ground so there's not a ready pool of hires we'd like to see.

CF: Let's talk about the timing of our instructor search. The plan has been to begin the search in January. We have the option of launching the search sooner, getting the job ad out there, and giving ourselves a larger window of advertising. This is a different type of position so we may not encounter the same headwinds we are seeing with the tenure line searches.

DE: I worry that if we don't have someone on board soon who can work with food writing, we will lose that certificate.

MW: Why would we lose that?

DE: We need people coming through the program or they'll want to take it off the books. If we don't have someone championing and recruiting for the program it will suffer. It's a boutique piece of our program we don't want to lose.

CF: Anyone have an argument for not bumping up the timing of the ad?

DE: You want someone to bring on in fall 2022 right?

CF: Yes, this is more a question of how we orchestrate the search.

MW: I see no disadvantage aside of assigning staffing to the search. I'm willing to lead it. I'm certain people will step up to get this done.

DE: Nothing technically keeping me from serving on a committee. The further down the road we get, more people will be comfortable with me being involved.

MW: First we will need to put together a committee. Frechette, let me know what role you have for me.

MA: Only argument against is people serving on multiple committees at one time.

EW: When I was in the College of Business, I was on a couple of committees for staff. Are adjuncts allowed to be on committees?

CF: Yes, but not as voting members. They can provide consultation and the like.

MW: I don't know how we avoid being on multiple committees at once. We need to get together and get it done.

DE: We can also pull people from outside of the department. That will ease it some.

MW: That will help but we will have to work on it ourselves. There's just so few of us.

CF: I will reach out to Zimmerman and see if I can find other folks. I tend to agree that there will be inevitable overlap on committees but we need to do everything we can to line ourselves up for the fall. We need to get all three positions in good shape.

CF: The main issue on the undergrad program is the prerequisite situation. I will talk with Susan Toler this afternoon so she understands the particular concerns we have on this issue and next week will meet with Tamp.

MW: How does our STEM designation deal with this issue?

CF: There are courses we can swap in that will have advantages of being our own and reflective of our STEM designation. The key is lining things up so they are mutually beneficial between STEM and our oceanographic efforts. We can begin laying the groundwork now.

MW: With the certificate program, we have a nice objective form for evaluating applications. We do need to have someone dedicated to the certificate program to keep it alive.

MW: Internships – meeting with Elliott next week. Want to set the table?

EW: Teaching senior seminar, I'm hearing from a lot of students frustrations about not having internships, difficulty getting them. And I have had a couple of people wanting to hire interns having trouble with Handshake. And on our website, we indicate we aren't interested in marketing internships. We need to make it easier for employers to get interns and see how we can better make our students aware of internships.

CP: Let's include Catherine Kozoil in that meeting.

MW: Faculty Senate. One issue is the legislature floating a proposal of five year evaluations of tenured faculty. Also you have surely followed the issue of UF barring faculty from testifying in lawsuits against the state. I wonder if USF will make any preemptive statement about this. I suspect this will be a real blow to UF in terms of hiring.

NY: No updates on NNB. I'm in St. Pete now, so I have begun to get acquainted with community leaders, thinking how we can connect to the community while we are based on campus. Last week, we met with Sharion of the Bethel Church, who is doing an oral history of the two pandemics. She reached out to see how we could collaborate or support that project. Also expressed interest in attending some NNB classes.

CP: Working on the accreditation website, will distribute tasks to people once it's done.

CF: Submitted our invitation letter and visit date preferences to ACEJMC. We will hear back from them in early December to confirm when our site visit date is going to be.

CF: Publications?

CP: Aya did a good video for TBT on relocated Afghan refugees.

CF: Update from Tony Silvia: He'll be back in town soon, at the Poynter Library Nov. 16 from 4-5 p.m. to present his new book Dyslexia and the Journalist. I invite you to encourage your students to go.

CC: I'll go and take photos.

CP: Exam schedule is out.

CF: Nov. 12 is the textbook adoption deadline for spring.

MW: Follett now has a way to adopt an eBook that isn't available in their system.

NY: Is there a restriction on how many pages of a given book we can scan and upload?

CF: 10%.

CF: I meant to ask for approval of the minutes from our last meeting. Any motion?

CC: So moved.

MW: Second.

CF: Take care, everyone.