

Faculty Meeting

Monday, February 19, 2018

10:00-11:30am

CAPA, Symposium Room

Faculty Meeting Agenda**Faculty Announcements****Elections: APC****Report of the Provost and Dean of the College**

Isabel Roche

- Faculty Searches
- Field Work Term 2018
- CAPA Spring 18 Preview
- Registration Updates

Report of the Academic Policies Committee

Noah Coburn, Chair

- Review changes to Plan proposal/progress letters to students

Report of the Associate Dean for Advising

Katie Montovan

- First-Year Forum
- First-Year Essay Shift
- Evolving (best) practices: names and pronouns

Report of the Dean of Studies

Laurie Kobik

- Academic accommodations (refresher)

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Faculty Meeting Minutes

Faculty present: Barbara Alfano, Brooke Allen, Benjamin Anastas, David Anderegg, Ella Ben Hagai, Josh Blackwell, Tom Bogdan, David Bond, Kitty Brazelton, Nick Brooke, John Bullock, Andrew Cencini, Noah Coburn, Michael Cohen, Terry Creach, Hugh Crowl, Annabel Davis-Goff, Michael Dumanis, Marguerite Feitlowitz, Janet Foley, Michael Giannitti, Karen Gover, Camille Guthrie, Sarah Harris, John Hultgren, Susie Ibarra, Jon Isherwood, Kirk Jackson, Dina Janis, Jonathan Kline, Sherry Kramer, Ginger Lin, Mary Lum, Vanessa Lyon, Katie Montovan, Steven Morics, Carol Pal, Aysha Peltz, Ann Pibal, Jonathan Pitcher, Mirka Prazak, Kate Purdie, Jean Randich, Robert Ransick, Sue Rees, Dana Reitz, Noelle Rouxel-Cubberly, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Tim Schroeder, Eileen Scully, Susan Sgorbati, Stephen Shapiro, Donald Sherefkin, Betsy Sherman, Anne Thompson, Paul Voice, Debbie Warnock, Bruce Williamson, Michael Wimberly, Kerry Woods, Ikuko Yoshida

Others present: Souleymane Badolo, Rebecca Brooks, Kate Child, Duncan Dobbeltmann, Katy Evans, Samantha Ivery, Laurie Kobik, Amy Kuzmicki, Richard MacPike, Xenia Markowitt, Faith McClellan, Meredith Meurs, Noelle Murphy, Mandy Pappas, Isabel Roche

Isabel Roche started the meeting by welcoming new faculty for the spring and requesting faculty announcements of upcoming events.

Election to APC took place with the following result:

- 3-year position to replace Noah Coburn, Michael Dumanis was elected.

Isabel provided an update on faculty searches stating that two faculty searches are in process this spring: Media Studies and Sociolinguistics. Also, the search for the VP for Enrollment has 3 finalists.

Faith McClellan provided a presentation of what students did over FWT.

Susan Sgorbati gave an overview of CAPA's recent activity. Following are the things being worked on:

- Bennington Translates
- John Hultgren and Forced Migration, Leadership Institute in Montreal
- PFOA, Water Mediation, Peacebuilding
- PEI, GANAS - teaching English, free medical center
- Environmental issues - PFOA
- Government - with Brian Campion, working on civic education and gun control in Vermont
- Art in the Public Realm - Debbie Warnock and Robert Ransick - Lumina, Jon Isherwood - public art policy for the campus
- Oslo - Art in Embassies opening
- A new student run cafe will be opening in DownCaf

Zeke gave registration updates: course entry for fall 2018 is due on March 19. Online Resources include: finding classes with open seats, academic minutes and faculty resources. Important dates for add/drop: March 2 is the starting date for add/drop and March 7 is the deadline and ending date. Digital approvals need to be sent to students so they can attach it to their add/drop form.

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Noah Coburn reported that there is a revised letter to students regarding Plan meetings. APC has inserted Capacities language into this letter. APC will be reviewing CapEx spending and discussing mid-term advisor check-ins.

Katie Montovan stated that the First-year Forum met twice since last term. Faculty built in a quick connection with their advisees, and it seemed they liked finding information more easily because they were in the program. Student co-leaders continue to be the “magic” in this program. They add useful information and are knowledgeable from the student perspective, which is so helpful. The group is talking about how to make this apply and be helpful to all students. Assessments have been started, and it does not seem to have a really strong effect on grades, etc., but it is showing that retention has improved. A survey to all first-year students is being distributed next week. A second workshop is being planned for spring 2018 and will include discussion of: first-year essays and how to read narrative evaluations, focusing on FWT and comparative evaluations; advisor match and ways to find a better match; faculty swap - switching around first-year forum students with other faculty. The group is discussing first-year essays as the moment to address basic writing skills. In the first few weeks of the term the essay is due and is to include FWT and first term topics.

Camille Guthrie discussed essay writing skills. She has prepared a sheet with guidelines for how to write the first-year essay (including Capacities) and it was distributed for all to review at this meeting. The guidelines reframe prompts for students to help them write their essays. It was reminded that this essay is used as a precursor for writing/setting the student’s Plan and the first formal step toward writing their Plan.

The “best practices” for names/pronouns was discussed and some faculty shared how they handle this with their students. It was discussed that this was a sensitive topic and the correct or comfortable way to handle it is still being explored.

Laurie provided quick instructions for accommodations and support and introduced Katy Evans, the new Academic Services and Accommodations Advisor.