

UHM Political Science Department meeting, September 8, 2017

About 42 faculty and graduate students gathered at 12:30 for our first department meeting.

Introductions: Began with Chair Kathy introducing Brandon Arakaki (Shared Services), Sudeshna Dutta, a visiting professor, and new faculty member Sarah Wiebe

Awards:

- 10 year certificate and Koa wood pen – for Patrice Flowers
- 20 year certificate and Koa wood pen – for Kate Zhou

Announcements:

At the Dean's request provide Kathy with your c.v., last 3 years' teaching (include 699 and MA and PhD committees, and at least 5 years of publications.

Next Friday – safe computing lab 12:30-1:30. Bring your lap tops and phones.

Budget

- \$5,000 available from UH Foundation account, Kathy wants to buy \$800 worth of sound canceling headphones, can return if College provides something more cost effective. Vote taken, passed.
 - Manfred suggests we put out a call for contributions to our UHF.
 - Larry recommends a \$30 noise canceling headphone.
- \$20,000 available from the College per semester above normal expenditures. How to spend?
 - 2-3 pledges from last year totally about \$2,500, leaving \$17K-\$18K left over. Kathy suggests using this fund for student and faculty travel, first exhausting other sources. May be used for either conferences or research.
 - Nevi needs a new computer, current one is 10-12 years old and cannot be upgraded, request dept. purchase since it's for scholarship and research.
 - Carolyn noted that hers is more than 10 years old and she is not asking for a new one.
 - Alternative is to have faculty wait their turn to get a new computer courtesy of the College.

- Dick noted for under \$600 per desktop you could buy 30 computers for \$18,000. Is there a need this big?
- Manfred suggests that we should help Nevi and others on a special need basis, and not become too Prussian (too rigid).
- Steve needed clarification on Harry's policy. Kathy noted it's a 5-year replacement schedule.
- Noenoe noted that she had difficulties with the College policy as implemented (e.g., never getting an adapter).
- Noelani said she would feel uncomfortable helping one person without knowing what the need is among faculty.
- Jon said he like most need both a laptop and desktop, and travel funds. So flexibility makes sense: some need the computer power, some travel funds, some need both.
- Jairus said grad students should have equal access with faculty whether there is one big pot of cash or two (one for travel, one for equipment).
- Mike recommends that the fund be exclusively for graduate students since they are generally much less able to afford equipment and travel.
- Kathy provided two options: we could have one resource fund, may be for travel or computer equipment. Becomes complicated administratively. 2nd option is just for travel. Equal access for faculty and graduate students in our department. 3rd option: two pots. Will vote on it at the next meeting.
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- Changes in conditions of our work given the fascists on campus. Reviewed last few weeks activities which included classroom symbols of fascism, and death threats posted online. Goal of these provocations is to provoke us to do something that is illegal or contrary to University policy. Recommendations
 - Do not talk to such persons alone.
 - Put experiences in writing.
 - Clarify that department events, while "public," is actually "open to members of the Dept. of Political Science. No recording...."
 - Attend each others' events to insure a "critical mass."
- Question whether undergraduates in our classes should be advised.
- Discussion about acquiring knowledge regarding symbols and tactics of fascist groups is available online from many sources such as the Southern Poverty Law Center and others.
- Steve suggested that we as a department bring to the attention of the

community (UHM and the larger society) the nature of the strategies being used by fascist organizations.

- Jairus noted that funding for conferences is available to educate people about this problem. He also did some research online that targets our university (“worse than Berkeley”).
- Kathy concluded that you shouldn’t think you are by yourself, and don’t shrug of as “weird” particular incidents of fascist display.
- A graduate student recommended that we have a blog listing incidents.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Chadwick
Secretary *pro tem*