

Department Meeting Minutes 11/18/16

Kathy posted the travel fund amounts left for graduate students and faculty. With \$7000 left in the faculty amount some suggested that it be shifted over to graduate student travel if the faculty demand wains. Kathy explained the protocols for requesting travel fund (URC and College first, the dept in the case of faculty; GSO first and then the dept in the case of students).

Our meeting to plan fall courses will be on December 2nd. We talked about focus designations, suggesting that we investigate student needs before deciding on our choices.

Kathy renewed our discussion about Joe Campos' possible shift in position to our department. The dean disallowed a change in his job description to allow him to help administer our graduate program. As for a regular teaching position, the sentiment was generally against adding him, in part because it would compromise our future request for an environmental politics hire and in part because he is not a good fit for our needs, even though (as some made clear) he does well teaching courses for us and he has done an admirable job of staying active as a scholar while holding administrative appointments.

Kathy exhorted us to post our syllabi and CV's in the department and college websites

Katharina reminded us about writing paragraph assessments of all the graduate students in our courses this semester. After some discussion it was suggested that we evaluate all students in the courses, even those unclassified or from other programs.

Workload forms will soon be ready, and they will have a different format – with more space for narrative. Kathy noted that she will check to make sure we all have done what we put in by way of scholarship.

We had a discussion about the mini-conference with department graduates and others on the staffs of the other departments in the UH system. It was regarded as a success and many want it to continue (yearly according to some, biannually according to others). Nicole suggested that we add a service panel next time. Noelani suggested that we have some textual preparation before the next one – syllabi, research examples, etc. and Noenoe suggested that in the future we include people from campuses that didn't send people to attend this one. Katharina suggested that we create awards to include students from the other campuses.

There is a suggestion that we get Monique to run a workshop on teaching online (for which she is very experienced).

Nicole and Carolyn reported on the A&S faculty senate meeting, most referring to the issues surrounding student assessment, measurement protocols etc.

Given the dean's suggestion of a cluster hire for sustainability recruitment, there was discussion of the problem with locating faculty in anything but a home department.