

Department Meeting Minutes from Oct 28, 2016

Announcements: After announcements regarding upcoming colloquiums everyone was reminded that it is *mandatory* to complete the on-line training on the issue of sexual harassment (Title IX) and to complete the questionnaire/quiz. This is not optional and is required by law of all of us.

Hiring: Per the latest communiques from the Dean, three positions have been approved in the area of Sustainability for the College as a whole and departments may get to share the eventual hires depending on their disciplinary affiliations. Noenoe Silva expressed a strong preference for a Pacific Islander as the region has been invisibilized in both scientific and media coverage on the issue despite its dire implications for the region. Larry Nitz noted that it's best to hire someone inter- or multi-disciplinary for such an area. Kathy Ferguson observed that joint appointments must be approached with great care as few of them really work out to the satisfaction of either the faculty member or the departments. In the rare instances that they do work out its often because (a) there was much thought and care exercised during the signing of the initial contract regarding expectations and duties, and (b) departments agree that the faculty member devote undivided attention to one department in one year and the second department (of their joint appointment) in the next – and keep alternating in that fashion.

Enrolment for summer courses: The single best way to ensure good enrolments for summer courses and avoid them getting canceled is to have multiple Focus designations for them. PACE has had great success in enrolments in summer courses because all their courses have Focus designations (Colin Moore). It's also possible that 3-week long intensive courses may work better than the usual, longer summer courses. Having pre-designated Focus courses will help greatly as applicants can tailor their lecturership applications knowing that they will have to deliver on these designations and make them part of their proposed syllabuses. The possibility of offering Graduate courses over summer was discussed but no decisions were made in this regard nor was there unanimity on the matter.

Nursing department and Public policy courses: The nursing dept needs a regular graduate course offered every year in public policy for their students in order for their department to remain accredited. For reasons not clear, our department's graduate course in public policy seems their favored (only?) choice. While this has been working reasonably well so far (and Jon Goldberg-Hiller is to blame if the next time you go to Queens for a routine checkup and your nurse starts arguing with you with about the merits of Foucault's ideas on caring for the self) it may soon become a case of the tail wagging the dog. Nursing expects a large influx of maybe 25 graduate students needing this course in the near future and they also have a strong preference for it to be on-line given that their students are often off-island. Much debate ensued about how to ensure we regularly teach public policy at the grad level. Once Debbie Halbert returns, and Katharina Heyer rotates out of being grad chair, this could not be much of a problem. There was strong sentiment expressed against 'backing into teaching a graduate course online.' Given the sizable number of grad students from nursing who will be required to do this course, it was suggested that the Nursing dept pay us

for a lecturership to enable us to offer this on a regular basis: we would ensure that the lecturer had a PhD and was qualified to teach a graduate course.

Advanced Women's Studies Certificate program was introduced and presented by Michelle Brown with a slick power-point show. It is an excellent program with very good convergence with our own.

With about two minutes to go in the meeting, the issue of a person who is currently an employee in another part of the UH system in a non-instructional (S) capacity and is pursuing a grievance with them, possibly transferring into our department was raised. This individual received a PhD from us in the subfield of International Relations some years ago and recently presented a colloquium in our department. The pros and cons of this possibility and what his role may or may not be ensued. Colin Moore observed that PACE had been offered this possibility in April (as in 6 months ago) and they declined. Kathy Ferguson noted that the department office is in a state of perpetual crisis thanks to our not being allowed to hire an APT person and that the O in Laurie O now stands for 'overwhelmed.' KF felt that this transfer had the potential to help in advising graduate students and sundry other administrative responsibilities that will bring Laurie O's workload to a fairer and more manageable level. Sentiments in favor and agin were expressed with varying degrees of vehemence. About 10 minutes past the official end of the meeting, the discussion ended with the expectation that more information will soon be forthcoming and a fuller conversation will have to take place before we know what we want to do in this regard.