

**POLS Dept Meeting – September 7, 2018**  
Minutes

**TOTAL PRESENT: 19 faculty, 24 students, 2 others**

**12:30 Noelani called the meeting to order**

Sharing: Sarah discussed her recent and current research, book contract, ideas for upcoming events/collaborations, etc.

Noelani: Today's meeting is more informational; there will be decision-making at the next meeting.

FOR DISCUSSION:

**1. New undergrad student mentoring system: the hope is to flesh this out, to make expectations more clear**

- Ehito: The problem is falling undergrad enrollment; this program provides an opportunity to take a different approach to advising undergraduates and is more of a mentorship relationship. What would this look like? Opened the discussion up for thoughts:
- Kathy: Students should start thinking ahead about capstone early on, as something that motivates you and helps you pick classes.
- Jairus: It would make most sense to time this with the undergraduate orientation because this would make them more likely to take advantage of it.
- Noelani: Right now, the names are just divided up by alphabet, but we should think about being more strategic in the future.

**2. Shared highlights from incoming Social Science student survey (either freshman or transfer students)**

- 150 respondents
- 20% said they intended to major in PoliSci
- 68% interested in doing research with faculty members
- 80% interested in doing an internship
- Concerns: over 50% concerned about managing finances and fitting in/making friends
- 88% felt getting a graduate degree was very important → this demonstrates the importance of capturing students early on and emphasizing capstones.

**3. New course evaluation system ("CES") is being implemented this fall. Decision-making on the following questions is needed at Sept. 21 meeting:**

- a. Do we want to add to the six common questions? Noelani suggests we add some that are linked directly to four student learning outcomes.
- b. With whom will reporting results be shared?

- All results will be shared with the chair. (Consistent with our current department policy)
- Only non-tenured faculty results will be shared with the chair.
- No results will be shared with the chair.

Noelani: Does anybody else want to suggest anything for the group to think about?

- Stephen: Questions to consider (passed out to those in attendance). Thinks questions need to be a little broader, and asks more of ourselves and our students.
- Dick: Most responses are reactions to a specific class, but we should also get feedback on the department, class scheduling, etc.
- Carolyn: Questions have been evolving over 2 years and finally put together by faculty senate from a list that was 50 then 25 questions, pared down to 6 at recommendation of students and faculty. Memo from Bruno said don't do more than a few questions because students wouldn't fill it out if it was too long.
- Kathy: Wonders what will happen to ecafe material because some will need that for promotion, tenure, etc.
- Jairus: Have we talked to union about how this will affect tenure decisions, etc? Just make sure we're sure about how this will impact faculty.
- Carolyn: This issue is also being brought up by the faculty senate - how they will be used, transmitted and how confidentiality will be kept. Can departments require that ALL results be used in promotion and tenure? This is uneven across departments, will meet with union and Vice chancellors office.
- Ari: Suggests taking a look at [www.ratemyprofessor.com](http://www.ratemyprofessor.com), and standardizing with that so that students are more familiar with the format.

#### ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD

None

#### NEW ITEMS

None

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder about junk removal on Monday
- Grad student space requests

Katharina: Formally welcomed all new grad students.

**Next meeting: September 21 @ 12:30pm**

**Adjourn @ 2:00 pm**