

School of Psychology Faculty Meeting

November 20, 2014

Present:

Faculty: Leslie DeChurch, Frank Durso, Susan Embretson, Rustin Meyer, Scott Moffat, Jim Roberts, Wendy Rogers, Jenny Singleton, Dan Spieler, Rick Thomas, Davood Tofighi, Paul Verhaeghen, Bruce Walker, Howard Weiss (Facilitator), Mark Wheeler

Student Reps: Patrick Bradshaw, Thom Gable (standing in for Lauren Margulieux), Skip Hauenstein, Ursula Saelzler

Administrative: Dawn Franklin, Jan Westbrook

1. Development Update (Weiss)
 - a. Steve Metzger (former GT Alumnus), has donated \$300,000 to the School of Psychology in his will. Dr. Metzger is a very knowledgeable neuroscientist that works primarily with Parkinson's patients. Dean Goldbart and Dr. Singleton hosted a dinner for Dr. Metzger earlier in the week, and Dr. Weiss met with him at the Center for Advanced Brain Imaging, along with Drs. Schumacher, Duarte, and Wheeler.
2. School Colloquium Update (Meyer)
 - a. Dr. Meyer has been in contact with a couple of speakers from last year's School Colloquium wish list, which is why an email has not been sent out to solicit names for this year's series. Dr. Robert Logie was our speaker for the Fall, and we are hoping to get Lisa Feldman-Barrett (Northeastern Univ) and Laura Carstensen (Stanford Univ) for the Spring. Suggestions for other colloquium speakers are welcomed in case we are not able to secure either Dr. Feldman-Barrett or Dr. Carstensen for the Spring.
3. Engineering Psychology Search Committee Update
 - a. General Overview of Applicant Pool (Rogers)
 - i. The Engineering Psychology Search Committee received a total of 23 applications, all of which were relevant to the position
 - ii. Two candidates rose to the top of the applicant pool, Jamie Gorman (Texas Tech Univ) and Jing Chen (Purdue Univ).
 - b. Dr. Rogers presented the Committee's thoughts on the candidate's interviews
 - c. The Committee recommended that an offer be given to Dr. Gorman.
 - d. A discussion of the candidates ensued with feedback from students, faculty and committee members.
 - e. After discussion, the faculty voted unanimously to make an offer to Dr. Gorman
 - f. If Dr. Gorman declines, the Committee will go back to the pool for additional candidates.

g. Graduate Policy Committee

i. The Graduate Policy Committee had three items to bring up for a vote

1. Vote to add text in the student Handbook concerning prelims

- a. “If the student does not pass the preliminary exam, the preliminary examination committee will meet to discuss a plan of action. Such action may include (as applicable) requiring major or minor revisions in the document; requiring a new document with a new topic; requiring the student to redo the written exam, in part or as a whole; requiring the student to redo the exam with a different format or topic focus; requiring the student to redo the oral defense; or failing the student, with the consequence that the student will not be admitted to the PhD candidacy.

- i. The faculty voted unanimously to add this text to the student Handbook.

2. Vote to add text in the Handbook in the section on Advisors

- i. “If a student’s Advisor becomes unavailable (e.g., due to long-term illness, death, retirement, a move away from the Institute, or by choice), it is the student’s responsibility to secure a new Advisor. However, the School shall make every effort to support the student in finding a new Advisor, on condition that the student is in good standing with the Institute (including being registered) and has received a score of ‘commendable’ or ‘satisfactory’ on the last end-of-year evaluation. While the search for a new Advisor is ongoing, the Graduate Coordinator will serve as the student’s Advisor in an administrative capacity. It is expected that the student will have secured a new permanent Advisor by the end of the next complete semester.

1. The faculty voted unanimously to add a revised version of the text to the student Handbook that includes the notation: “If the student has not secured a new advisor by the end of the next complete semester, the student will be put in probationary status”.

3. Dr. Roberts discovered an infelicity in the stats sequence: Students need a B in Stats I and II, but they could take Stats II (in Spring) if they got a C or D in Stats I (in the Fall). Same for Multivariate. Proposed to change the prereq for Stats II to ‘having passed Stats I with a grade of A or B’ and the prereq for Multivariate to ‘having passed II with a grade of A or B’.

- a. After some discussion, the faculty decided to table this item while more information is gathered about how this is handled with other series courses across campus.
- h. Update on Course Evaluations (Weiss)
 - i. Dr. Weiss informed the faculty that we will be trying out the automated course evaluation system for the next evaluation period. Unless we experience any significant issues with the automated system, we will continue with this down the road. This decision is prompted by the fact that we are the only remaining School that does not use the automated system for our course evaluations. This also presents issues with the faculty promotion process as the format for the written evaluations is different from that of the automated evaluations.