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Division Minutes

11-8-2017

Social Science Division meeting minutes 11/08/ 2017

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*****APPROVED 3-19-18*****

**Division of Social Science
Division Meeting
Wednesday, November 8th, 5:30 p.m.
Imholte Hall, Room 113**

Minutes

Faculty in Attendance: Joseph Beaver, Cyrus Bina, Sheri Breen, Dave Brown, Emily Bruce, Steve Burks, Rebecca Dean, Jennifer Deane, Satis Devkota, Farah Gilanshah, Roland Guyotte, Marissa Holst, Elliot James, Tom Johnson, Seung-Ho Joo, Jacob Jurss, Arne Kildegaard (Chair), Clement Loo, Leslie Meek, Bibhudutta Panda, Heather Peters, Jennifer Rothchild, Roger Rose, Dennis Stewart, Kevin Whalen, Lauri Wyum

Faculty Not in Attendance: Deb Economou, Steve Gross, Tim Lindberg, Cheryl Stewart, Ralph Woehle,

Student Representatives in Attendance: Noah Pilugin, Michael Cagle, Ruby DeBellis, Ellen Hoke

Student Representatives Not in Attendance: Olivia Anderson

Faculty on Leave: Oscar Baldelomar (fall leave), Ed Brands (sabbatical), Bart Finzel (administrative leave), Solomon Gashaw (fall leave), Kerry Michael (fall leave) Ben Narvaez (fall SSL leave), Nina Ortiz (IAS fall leave)

- A. Approval of September 11, 2017 meeting minutes.
Steve Burks motioned to approve. Seung-Ho Joo seconded. Unanimous approval.
- B. Announcements
 - Next Tuesday, Nov. 14, is the 2nd Community Presentation from a year long collaboration with UMM Extension and UM Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships. Ben Winchester, Bridig Tuck, and Jane Leonard will explore how rural Minnesota's economy has changed over the past 40 years and what these changes mean for the future of our region. This series will continue with two more events during spring semester.
 - Econ/Mgmt is proud to welcome back alum, Dr. Joleen Hadrich, '04 . Joleen will give two talks next Wednesday (Nov. 15) - a public presentation at 7:30 p.m. (Science 1020); and a presentation at 3:30 p.m. for Econ/Mgmt students.
 - Next Monday (Nov. 13), Alum Erika Bailey Johnson, Director of Sustainability at Bemidji State University, will speak with Troy Goodnough about wellness and sustainability at 7:30 p.m. in IH 109.
- C. Visit of Amy Mondloch, UMM Center for Small Towns
Amy's position, Community Program Administrator is a mash up of the Kelly Asche and Kerry Barnstable positions. She wanted to visit us today to introduce herself. Her background in nonprofit and community organizing with environmental and social issues. Contact CST for resources they can offer, including working with Office of Community Engagement and the Office of Sustainability for focus groups and surveys of students. Faculty will get the survey next semester—think about what you've heard today.

D. Visit of Nancy Carpenter, UMM McNair Program Director

First Nancy commended us that the Division of Social Sciences has the most recommendations so far (application deadline is Dec. 8). The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement program is another TRiO (not an acronym) program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Applicants must be low-income, first generation, or otherwise students who are underrepresented in graduate programs. We need a cohort of 25 students to apply by the Dec. 8th deadline. PLEASE do what you can to help students apply. Simple encouragement such as, “you could do that. Have you thought about this?” would help. Nancy Carpenter said to send her the names, or have student see her directly. Candidate interviews will take place early during Spring semester. If 25 students are named, this will bring a flow of funding into campus. Let’s instill hope in our students, not just provide names; but push for applications, and help with the essay.

E. Chair Kildegaard wanted to address the group regarding enrollment, and have a discussion of discipline-based lower division strategies that might help retention.

With the number of students have decreasing, Arne is attempting to be proactive. Is there anything we can do?

- The budget shortfall of 1.1 million this year, and 2.5 to 3.2 million for next fiscal year was noted.
- Rebecca Dean said that Anthropology has a weekly get together where faculty and students are meeting. They have cookies and just hangout. It’s not a roaring success, but it’s a way to connect students with each other and faculty. Making them feel like they’re in a community.
- Jennifer Dean said that in history they’ve seen a decline in 3000 level classes, and that maybe we could offer several small courses instead of one large Intro classes, maybe helping students could connect more in their first year.
- It was asked if there has there been empirical research on why students are leaving. Is it they can’t find anything they like, or are they not doing well?
- It was suggested everyone should try to say “yes” when asked to do student visits, faculty panels, community of scholars, etc.
- It was noted that the first semester is often when students are most vulnerable to leave. IC courses during their first semester can help. It might be smart to really get to know you, and you maybe recruit them for your major.
- Using 1st year Research Assistants is not unheard of, and students become deeply engaged. Adding simulations to your class can help too.
- The idea of adding something intellectual/academic-wise to orientation was considered (versus orientation being only about student life). There’s very little intellectual.
- Someone brought up a possible January social event to keep students interested in returning in January.
- It was discussed to possibly add J term instead of May term? If retention is a problem for students leaving after first semester, maybe having something planned in January could help keep them interested. May term may also keep students from taking summer jobs.
- Roger Rose mentioned that now with the common time, some social events could possibly be included to keep students interested.

F. New business - none

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.