

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Monday, November 11, 2019

12:15 AM - 1:15 PM – Reed 114

Faculty Council and Senate Website: <http://behrend.psu.edu/for-faculty-staff/committees/faculty-senate-and-council>

- I. Call to Order – Melanie D. Hetzel-Riggin, Faculty Council & Senate Chair
- II. Approval of the Minutes
Lucina Aronne and Eric Corty, Unanimously
- III. Welcome and Comments from the Chair
- IV. Special Presentation – Addressing Mental Health and Trauma Issues of Students in Your Classroom, Dr. Wilson Brown, Assistant Professor of Psychology

“Trauma informed care”: According to the recent “60 minutes” special providers being more sensitive to need of patients. There is a need for change in organizational culture to prevent re-traumatization. There are very high levels of trauma among our students, by age of 24 83 % experience traumatic events. Half of the students asked about trauma, admit to experiencing it. Trauma is an experience with life altering, physical, physiological, spiritual consequences.

Altering our culture to account for trauma, fits with our Penn State mission. ACPC says this year there are alarmingly increasing numbers of referrals for students for counseling.

“Emerging adult experience” is tough for our students and this generation due to a number of factors such as economics, demographic, and socio-economic status, which might be more traumatized students. There are also issues of re-traumatization or struggle for faculty which might occur as experience with students and offering support.

1. Trauma is universal. Thus, “Temper justice with mercy” – adapt trauma informed practices in the classroom, kindness, sensitivity, empathy. Making connections with the students (empathy).
2. Any setting can be re-traumatizing to someone. Ordinary settings, wording, lighting all can be re-traumatizing.

Don’t be judgmental. If you notice changes in students’ behaviors, reach out.

Working with Qi to put together a training for faculty, which might happen May. How to guide for faculty.

Questions:

John Champaign– it’s not hard to make small changes to make this trauma informed place. Art on walls, ets. What next? Committees?

Melanie – There are frameworks in clinical psychology and conversation need to be had for there to be a campus wide change. Faculty senate can move this forward.

Wilson – numerous stakeholders should be involved in these discussions, including students.

Luciana Aronne– where is the line between prying or being sensitive? Where is respecting the privacy fit into it? Some students might feel that faculty are prying even if asked “are you okay?” Second, we cannot keep things confidential, because we are “mandatory reporters”

Wilson – giving an opportunity to speak, it does not have to be a fact-finding mission.

Unless, it is title IX we might not have to report, and we don’t have to ask to many details.

Melanie – include that on syllabus day – “I am a mandatory reporter, but I can also put you in touch with people who can help you.”

This is a great question that should be followed up with faculty training.

Matt Swinarski– on line teaching is a forum where students can be more forthcoming with traumatic disclosure. How can we respond there? Give a link to services? Would be nice to have a list of campus, university wide or national services available to students.

Wilson– anonymity of the online course might allow for students to be more open online. Sometimes students are not comfortable with on-site services. So, there should be a list of resources on and off campus.

Matt Cizek – sometime students are more friendly with staff than faculty. There should be a guide for staff too.

If you have further questions email Wjb172@psu.edu and anyone in Psychology department and Personal Counseling center.

V. Report from Officers and Standing Committees

a. Academic Computer, Chuck Yeung

- i. The committee met before the last meeting to discuss strategies for competing resources and saving some money. There are tentative ideas, including, moving more computers to the library to increase the usage of the library.
The important question to consider is how this might interfere with the library space used for teaching? More conversation will be had with Humanities and Social Sciences.
- ii. Ralph is asking about use of remote lab resources and use of low cost machinery. While it is not perfect it might be used for some purposes. However, students do not seem to be too receptive. Melanie suggests that there are possibilities, however, reliability is a question.
- iii. VLC classroom with 20 computers which are up for update. Could it be scrapped? Ralf suggested that committee reach out to Amy Bridger and Ken Miller.
- iv. Lisa pointed out that here is a need for designated computer lab for exams, where students can take exams in a computer lab that is proctored over a period of designated time. The testing center does not live up to those expectations. A conversation for the future.

b. Undergraduate Curricular Affairs, Lisa Elliott

- i. Curriculum has been approved. 21 have been reviewed since the beginning of September, 2 more are currently pending review.

c. Faculty Affairs, Matt Swinarski

- i. The Faculty Affairs committee is making progress on the Workload charge. Currently we are defining a Peer Group, a Competitive Group and an Aspirant Group for comparison. For example, the Peer Group might include some other PSU colleges and select BIG 10/ State University related colleges similar in size or mission. We have also asked administration if they have a list of institutions they use for comparison - Pam is looking into it.

d. Graduate Affairs, Ken Louie

- i. The committee is discussing the formal set of procedures for new graduate programs and courses. First meeting was in September. Committee is gathering information from other campuses before they make their own policies. Ken reached out Vicki Hewitt, Harrisburg and Great Valley and received useful information. The committee will work on procedure for Behrend.

- e. Research Committee, Jay Amicangelo
 - i. The committee has had two meetings so far. Frist change – sabbatical applications. Committee discussed the criteria and are reviewing the applications. Proposals were sent to Ivor Knight.
 - ii. Committee will be working on charges three and four next.
- f. Student Life, Matt Levy
 - i. The committee met on Oct. 10. Retention charges might be more suited for administration and “Count Me In”.
 - ii. The committee proposes to create a Student life resources hand book – easy and centralized hub for both faculty and students on extracurricular students’ activities.
 - 1. Melanie suggests to speak to Student Life. Matt – apparently, there is no such resource yet. The committee will be working on this project.
- g. Undergraduate Studies, Joseph Previte
 - i. The committee has formed subcommittees to start work on several of the charges before the committee.
 - ii. There will be a meeting in late October to assess progress of these subcommittees.
 - iii. One subcommittee met with SGA members to discuss the students' desire to have a standardized (possibly web-based) grievance process (for Behrend College- standard across all schools) to be able to report problems with faculty via an online (anonymous) form submission. The form submission would either go to the respective Associate School Director or Department Chair or both of these parties.
 - iv. During this meeting, SGA members also voiced concerns about students not knowing or having access to current grades and suggested that all faculty make grade information available on CANVAS.
- h. Institutional Equity and Diversity, Boon Ong
 - i. Over the email “We read the charges that for this committee and brainstorm on some of the ways to locate the graduates of International students, students of color and underrepresented students. Andy should be at the meetings to move further.”

VI. Reports from University Faculty Senate
 Any concerns send them to Lisa Mangle

- VII. Unfinished Business
- a. Workloads for team thought courses. Most schools have a policy but between schools, there are differences. Melanie crating a centralized place for all schools’ policies and checking with Pam for process. Big questions when team teaching across school what is the process? Meeting between Pam, school directors, and faculty members.
 - i. According to Matt Swinarski the 2010 report has work load determination. Nothing specific on team taught (might be in appendix). Melanie will investigate.

VIII. New Business

Strategic Planning. The theme is “think outside the box.” Making cross disciplinary and cross school conversation possible

John Champaign – we are discussing an Immigration Studies major. Some colleagues respond and some do not. How do you get people to reach out across schools and disciplines?

Matt Swinarski—There is not incentive to reach out across school because there is rewards to do so. All evaluation and resource distribution is done at school level. When thinking about strategy there is no conversation about implementation. The allocation of the resources also is at the school level, which does not allow for cross discipline collaborations.

Penn State 2025 proposes to rethink what a major is. Majors might have a limited life span and might not be the same concept than what we used to.

Melanie – may be its not about majors and programs, but about processes for interdisciplinary collaborations.

What are the barriers for interdisciplinary projects? Bureaucracy? Can we address this in the strategic plan?

Time frames are barriers. We need more time to think though the strategic plans.

Another question – interdisciplinary research.

John Champaign– one of the problems is communication. We cannot send email to fellow faculty members without permission.

Matt Swinarski – it would be useful to have a Scholarship bank which would allow to find people and their research ideas. Technical issues for creating the digital hub even. Canvas pride is too technically complicated. Can there be a way to do that with Digital measures. Yes, it can be done, but you need someone to do it and all the permissions to do it.

IX. Announcements

Luciana Aronne– chemistry history course iner-domain, there were some (3/4) seats supposed to be reserved for sophomores and freshman and they were not. Science scheduled the course. So, the course is not available to those students that need it.

Melanie – seems that more clarification and communications with the scheduler. Melanie will double check.

X. Adjournment

- a. Luciana Aronne and Eric Corty, unanimously.

Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Amy Carney	abc13
Eric Carney	ewc2
John Champagne	jgc4
Ken Louie	klouie@psu.edu
Jonathon Hall	jch12
Wilson Brown	wjb172
MATT CISZEK	mpc16
Kellie Brosius-Jirritano	kmb158
Luciana Aronne	lxa09
Matt Swinarchi	mrs35
Lynne Beaty	lzb345
Adam Simpson	ams1122
Amos Ong	bwo1
Dean	