



**Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
Thursday, March 25, 2021 – 1:00pm**

AGENDA

- Members:**
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean: Chris Gold | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Felipe Leon |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Critelli | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Ramirez Noss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Fike | <input type="checkbox"/> David Shever |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Firestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Luca Struble |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darla Fjeld | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roberto Garcia | |
- Guests:**
- Cheryl Kroll
 - Cecelia Mataalii
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I) Spring Enrollment

- Community college enrollment is down across the nation as students are struggling during the pandemic. Enrollment is down in the state, at El Camino, and in Philosophy. Although enrollment is low, we were able to preserve most sections. We had to cancel two sections of 101, leaving 10 sections. One section was moved to the second 8 weeks to give it time to enroll.
- The department feels that it would be good to have 3 103s instead of 4. They are typically low enrolled. Randy would be okay with teaching it once a year.

II) Fall Scheduling

- The department reviewed the fall schedule. It is very similar to last fall's schedule with one less 101. If enrollment continues to remain very low, we may need to shift classes to the second 8 weeks.

III) Counselor's Report – Cheryl Kroll

- Please see PP slide #5
- There is a series of undecided majors workshops that would help the Philosophy faculty achieve recommendation #4 in their annual plan, to encourage students to declare the major. The live links for students to enroll in the workshops were shared with the faculty.

IV) SLOs and Curriculum

- There is no curriculum due this semester for Philosophy.

- Randy is the SLO lead for Philosophy. The dept. is submitting all its assessments on time. Randy will email faculty regarding the assessments for this semester. He will also check into any corrections that need to be made to the timeline.

V) Annual Plan Recommendations

- Thanks to Felipe Leon for his work on the Philosophy Annual Plan.
- The department reviewed the recommendations in the Annual Plan.
- Recommendation #1 is to increase the number of myPATH sections with PASS mentors. Roberto reports the PASS mentors are especially good in supporting students because they are embedded in the class and build a strong connection with the students. In the past, Philosophy had a tutor through the library but prefers the PASS mentors.
- Recommendation #2 is to develop a class on Latin American Philosophy. Roberto is working on this. He is reviewing comparable classes at the CSU and has talked with Ethnic Studies (Xocoyotzin) about cross-listing with Ethnic Studies so that the course would meet the Ethnic Studies CSU GE. Roberto is working on including the CSU core competencies in the course.
- Recommendation #3 is to develop a class on Feminist Philosophy. This is more on a back burner, but the department is interested in developing it and exploring whether it can be included in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies AA degree. One idea is to create a Philosophy of Race and Gender class that explores intersectionality.

VI) Equity – How the Dean Can Help.

- The department reviewed its equity gaps from Spring 2019. The gap for African American students that semester, was particularly large but it could have been a very small sampling of students. Typically, they are closer to the ECC gap. The success rates can be reviewed by class on the success data dashboard on the IRP site. Students may struggle even more online without the face-to-face support of instructors.
- Faculty are on the front lines, working on equity in the classrooms, but the Dean is here to support you. Here's how she can help:
 - Information: Please reach out to Chris if you need data or information. She can either find it for you or find out if someone else can.
 - Resources: If you would like to make an instructional purchase to help reduce equity gaps, please talk with Maria Cortez and Chris.
 - Venues: If you would like to have a conversation with your colleagues about equity, please ask Chris to put it as an agenda item on one of our department or division meetings.

VII) Events and Announcements

- The Philosophy departments are active and busy scholars and creators!
- Felipe has a chapter in a book coming out next year and some longer range publications. He tried a student book club earlier in the year, but students were distracted by other concerns.
- Randy published 9 articles in a 6 year period and recently took his first break off without writing. He's thinking about writing about the self. In the online venue, Randy can see how many people are reading his articles, and it's a lot!

- Roberto is going to teach the Intro to Social Science course in Spring 2022 and will start preparing for that. He is also exploring his creative side and produced a jazz EP (he shared the link, and it's terrific!). We will see him at the next Grammy's! Roberto will also be a facilitator at the Tech Conference.
- Melissa has been working on an equity project at LBCC – a cultural curriculum audit in which they review courses for equity and cultural sensitivity. She has enjoyed being able to work productively at home while her daughter has been in her infancy and is now turning one.

cc: Philosophy Faculty
BSS Office Staff
BSS Meta-Major Counselors