



**Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Philosophy Department Meeting
September 12, 2017**

MINUTES

Present: M. Critelli, R. Firestone, C. Kroll, F. Leon, M. Ramirez, D. Shever, L. Struble

Meeting began at: 1:00 p.m.

Enrollment and Scheduling Issues

The dean discussed enrollment challenges facing the department. In particular, PHIL 103 (Ethics and Society) has not generated as much enrollment in the past few semesters. This has resulted in reducing the number of section offerings. In addition, the offering of too many electives in one semester minimizes enrollments among philosophy majors who must choose between courses such as PHIL 111 (Ancient and Medieval), PHIL 112 (Modern) and PHIL 115 (Existentialism). For future scheduling, PHIL 112 will be offered in spring only along with PHIL 113 (Contemporary). PHIL 115 is to be offered once yearly in the fall semester.

L. Struble stated that he has taught PHIL 106 (Intro to Symbolic Logic) through UCLA extension using Canvas. The dean will follow-up for the online spring 2018 schedule.

Also discussed was the need to increase Philosophy 105 (Critical Thinking and Discourse) sections. The course satisfies both CSU and IGETC critical thinking requirements for transfer. Currently, only two are being offered. The dean has asked that the Honors Transfer Program add an honors section of PHIL 105 to their list of offerings since English 1C and Psychology 3 critical thinking sections are already part of the program. Further discussion ensued on R. Firestone's concern that the other disciplines assigned instructors are not properly trained like philosophers are to teach critical thinking.

The dean asked if the department wants to offer Political Philosophy (PHIL 117) in the future. Currently, the course is cross-listed with Political Science 7 and is taught by Political Science faculty each semester. In future scheduling, the course can be alternated each semester between Philosophy and Political Science.

A possible future link via the division's student equity reenvisioned program (SER) might also enhance student interest in the program. H. Herrera Thomas has spoken to R. Firestone about a possible learning communities cohort.

Curriculum

The department is current in its course review cycle through 2019 thanks to R. Firestone who has updated the entire curriculum. Also discussed was the possibility of pursuing a new course on Feminist Philosophy which could also be added to the new Women's Gender and Sexualities major that is under College Curriculum Committee review.

Planning

G. Miranda reviewed the 2017-18 program plan recommendations which included a request for an S.I. coach. Also discussed was the need to add a recommendation for 2018-19 to replace E. Shadish who

retired in spring 2017. G. Miranda would like the program plan recommendations completed by mid-November.

SLOs

R. Firestone has completed his spring 2017 assessment report and will do one for PHIL 115 this semester since E. Shadish did not complete hers before retiring. F. Leon is almost done with PHIL 101 which should be submitted in time (i.e. 9/15/17).

This semester PHIL 105 (#3), PHIL 111 (#3) and PHIL 112 (#1, #2) are to be assessed. PHIL 114 (Asian Philosophy) is on this semester's list but the course has not been offered in the past year so it will have to be deferred until the course is offered again.

Adjunct Reemployment List/Faculty Evaluations

G. Miranda reviewed the criteria for the new adjunct reemployment lists. She noted that M. Critelli and D. Fjeld currently are the two part-timers with ten or more semester assignments and satisfactory evaluations. The list will be updated annually as other adjuncts move up to that category. The dean also stressed the importance of honest evaluations which are important to ensuring future assignment offers.

Part-Time Job Announcement

G. Miranda stated that she has approved a part-time job announcement for Philosophy. F. Firestone and F. Leon will interview applicants for future assignments or to be placed in the department's pool of instructor possible candidates.

Department Activities

F. Leon reported that the Philosophy Club has had its first meeting of the semester, elected officers and is participating in club rush this week. Movie Night is being planned again for this semester.

F. Leon is considering another debate with Professor Tomas Bogardus of Pepperdine, possibly on some ethical topics. F. Leon is the co-author of a manuscript on explaining reality which has been submitted to Cambridge University Press. He also has submitted an essay to the American Philosophical Association's journal.

R. Firestone had his latest essay, "Nietzsche's Best Life: The Ten Greatest attributes of the *Urbemensch* & a Comparison to Aristotle's Virtuous Person," published in the **Open Journal of Philosophy** (7:377-407).

M. Ramirez and R. Garcia are working on posters to promote the department.

F. Leon asked if he could update the department's web page. He was directed to see Beverly on how to do so. He also asked if bulletin boards (glass cases and cork boards) could be purchased and be placed on the second floor of the SOCS building. M. Cortez will work with him to select appropriate boards.

C. Kroll reminded the faculty that the college's transfer fair is scheduled for 9/26. The department will be present and continue its efforts to promote the value of a Philosophy degree.

Success and Retention Data—Spring 2017

Discussion ensued after G. Miranda shared success and retention data for spring 2017 with the department, both for on campus and online courses.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:50 p.m.

cc: D. Maloney
J. Shankweiler (electronic copy)
Compton College: R. Murray
Philosophy Department Faculty/Compton College Philosophy Faculty
Division Counselors: C. Kroll, B. Mims, R. Miranda