

**Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Philosophy Department Meeting  
November 1, 2011**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** R. Firestone, E. Shadish, J. Thureson

**Meeting began at:** 1:05 p.m.

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**Update on Spring and Summer Scheduling**

G. Miranda updated the department on division section cuts but there were minimal cuts to the department's schedule which already is lower than in previous years.

**Adjunct Assignments**

A brief review of current part-time assignments took place. Faculty recommended enhancing the existing department pool and would like to interview for future assignments. G. Miranda will prepare an announcement for the department.

E. Shadish stated that she had not received a response from S. Haghighi whose online section she is evaluating this semester. The division office will contact and remind him.

**Program Review**

The department briefly reviewed comments and suggestions from the Program Review Committee which met with the faculty about a week before. G. Miranda will provide R. Firestone with information on the CSU/UC area categories that Philosophy courses meet to fulfill student transfer requirements.

**Plan Builder**

R. Firestone will spearhead the department's updates on plan builder. He was reminded that any recommendations made in program review will need to be added into plan builder.

**Curriculum and SLOs**

All Philosophy SLOs and assessments are current. R. Firestone recently submitted the assessment results for Asian Philosophy and was commended for the thoroughness of his report.

E. Shadish inquired about the status of the proposed Political Philosophy course. G. Miranda responded that E. Antoine submitted a rough draft but that much work still needs to be done on the proposal before it can be reviewed by the DCC.

### **Prerequisites for Philosophy Courses**

The faculty was scheduled to meet with D. Smith from the Compton Center's philosophy department to discuss his request to consider establishing prerequisites for Philosophy courses. The meeting fell through but as a follow-up the department discussed the possibility of considering prerequisites for some courses such as Philosophy 7 (Philosophy of Religion). R. Firestone stated that announcing in the syllabus the importance of using the Reading Center is one way to address this. G. Miranda suggested meeting with Irene Graff to develop a survey to review the English reading and writing levels of students enrolled in Philosophy classes as a way to begin the discussion about the possibility of hard prerequisites for some courses. The dean will contact Irene to set up a preliminary meeting.

### **Department Activities/Philosophy Club**

J. Thureson announced that donated books received from the estate of Bill Barger will be sold either before this semester ends or next semester by the Philosophy Club to raise scholarship funds. J. Thureson also stated she plans to contribute seed money from her Distinguished Faculty Award.

J. Thureson also stated that she had contacted John Levin who is in charge of a UCR community college coloration project. She wants to find out if there is a possibility of collaboration with ECC but at this time does not have extensive information on the collaboration.

Also mentioned was the possibility of a connection with the Confucius Institute at UCLA.

R. Firestone stated that 25 students attend the Philosophy Department meetings which are held every week. The club has scheduled an evening showing of the film "Momento" on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other**

J. Thureson announced that she is planning to retire at the end of the academic year. The timing of the decision disqualifies the department from this year's position requests; a discussion ensued on alternatives to the expected reduction in full-time faculty.

**Meeting adjourned at:** 1:55 p.m.

cc: T. Fallo  
F. Arce (electronic copy)  
Philosophy Department Faculty/Compton Center Faculty  
Compton Center: S. Dever, C. Lyles  
Division Counselor: Y. Cooper