

**Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Philosophy Department Meeting
October 6, 2015**

MINUTES

Present: R. Firestone, C. Kroll, F. Leon, E. Shadish

Meeting began at: 1:00 p.m.

Enrollment Issues and Future Scheduling

The department discussed enrollment concerns over cancellation of three core courses this semester. R. Firestone reported that a good number of his students in some of the elective classes are former students which might suggest declining interest in Philosophy. This semester a 9:30 TTh Ethics and Society class was cancelled due to very low enrollment, unheard of in past years. Also cancelled were a section of the Philosophy of Religion and Symbolic Logic, courses that are part of the A.A.-T degree.

R. Firestone proposed meeting with counselors to discuss the educational value of Philosophy courses for the general student body. C. Kroll suggested contacting the dean, Dipte Patel, to be placed on the agenda for the general counseling meeting. Advertising and marketing the program offerings more effectively was also discussed as well as having the Philosophy Club host a careers workshop. E. Shadish and F. Leon suggested putting together literature for students that demonstrates the value of a Philosophy degree as well as its general value in preparing students for success in college and beyond. G. Miranda suggested that E. Shadish consider a presentation for Women's history month on the topic of women in philosophy as another way to spotlight the discipline.

Curriculum

G. Miranda distributed the six year timeline for course review. Phil 103 and 120 will be due to be updated in spring 2016. They were included in the renumbering in fall 2014 but did not undergo course review. R. Firestone will update Phil 103 and J. Thureson will be asked to update Phil 120.

E. Shadish recommended revising the course objectives to Philosophy 101. The department agreed to delete #2, 8, and 13 and include from the C-ID list objectives #1-4.

SLO Assessments

The department is scheduled to assess PHIL 105 (#1), PHIL 107 (#2), PHIL 111 (#1), PHIL 114 (#2), and PHIL 120 (#2). F. Leon will assess 105 and 107; E. Shadish will assess 111; R. Firestone will assess 114 and J. Thureson will assess 120. In addition, R. Firestone will assess PLO #1.

Planning and Program Review

F. Leon reviewed the department's program review and discussed recommendations. F. Leon also stated he needed more information on the number of philosophy majors and would contact I. Graff to provide that information. Further discussion ensued on improvements in success rates for the department. The dean reminded F. Leon to follow-up with I. Graff to set up training for the input of recommendations from program review into this year's annual plan. The deadline for completion is November 15th.

Success and Retention

Spring 2015 success and retention data was distributed for departmental review. The data underscored some of the improvements in student success in on-campus classes.

Department Activities

R Firestone reported that the Philosophy Club has close to 30 active members this semester. They will organize a careers workshop. R. Firestone noted that even though women are a smaller number of students in Philosophy classes, he stated that women are the club officers this term. The club's first movie night is scheduled for November 6th.

Other – Screen Issues

E. Shadish stated that the pull down screen in SOCS 211 has to be secured with a hook to keep it down for use in class. The division staff informed her that the installer of the screen would have to be called to fix the problem.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:55 p.m.

cc: T. Fallo
J. Shankweiler (electronic copy)
CED: R. Murray, I. Bunting
Department Faculty/Compton Center Faculty
Division Counselors: C. Kroll, B. Mims