



**Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Philosophy Department Meeting**

November 8, 2016

MINUTES

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

Meeting began at: 1:00 p.m.

Enrollment Trends, Future Scheduling

Five Philosophy sections were cancelled before the start of the semester but by first census the department's fill-rates were consistent across weekly, daily and online offerings at 92%. F. Leon and R. Firestone noted that they still have good size classes at this time in the semester. G. Miranda recommended not offering PHIL 107 (Philosophy of Religion) online given low success rates in that course in summer 2016. F. Leon agreed. He will teach PHIL 106 (Symbolic Logic) instead. Also discussed was an alternate schedule for the department's core electives so that they would improve enrollment. The dean suggested offering Ancient and Medieval in fall year one with Modern and Asian Philosophy in spring, year one. She also recommended adding Contemporary Philosophy in fall, year two and Existentialism in spring, year two in order to ensure that classes would have less chance of being cancelled. Modifying the sequence of some of the elective offerings was discussed and the dean asked for faculty to give serious consideration to this schedule suggestion.

Curriculum

All course updates are current with no further course reviews due until spring 2019. The department discussed developing a new course on feminist philosophy or on the philosophy of sex and gender. Discussion continued with possibly combining the two into one course proposal.

G. Miranda also distributed copies of the course objectives for PHIL 101 and E. Shadish's proposed edits. The department will review her suggestions and provide the office changes if any.

Annual Program Plan

F. Leon input the 2016-2017 program plan recommendations into TracDat.

SLOs

This semester PHIL 105 (Critical Thinking and Discourse), PHIL 107 (Philosophy of Religion), PHIL 111 (Ancient and Medieval Philosophy), and PHIL 120 (Ethics, Law and Society) will be assessed. Faculty scheduled to assess these courses have been notified. R. Firestone will be doing PLO #2 (Epistemological Theories).

Success and Retention

G. Miranda discussed summer 2016 success and retention data for the department focusing on summer 2016. Notable differences were evident between on campus and online section offerings. On campus departmental success averaged 84% while it was only 65% online. The lower success was evident in PHIL 107 (Philosophy of Religion) which yielded a low 40% success rate. This led to the decision to not offer the course online in summer.

Department Activities

The department will participate in College Night. R. Firestone has prepared 500 flyers to distribute that promote the value of Philosophy courses as foundational for success in college.

R. Firestone also reported that movie night is scheduled for next Friday. Students who attend movie night then discuss philosophical issues that emanate from the film viewing. The club meets weekly and has a steady attendance of between 15 to 20 students.

F. Leon has completed one of his scholarly works and expects the monograph to be available in December or early January. Felipe is also working on another monograph. R. Firestone stated that the fifth edition of his critical thinking book will soon be out. Randy has completed an article on free will which he will submit for publication.

F. Leon also stated that next spring he will be hosting a debate on campus on God's existence. Tomás Bogardus from Pepperdine has agreed to participate along with Felipe.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:50 p.m.

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