



**Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Philosophy Department Meeting
April 19, 2016**

MINUTES

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

Meeting began at: 1:00 p.m.

Enrollment and Future Scheduling Directions

The department has a number of softly enrolled classes this semester. In addition, three classes were cancelled before the start of the semester. A lengthy discussion took place focusing on possible reasons for the decline in students. The perceptions of Philosophy as a difficult subject in addition to alternative choices for students to complete general education requirements were cited by faculty as factors. C. Kroll pointed out that Philosophy courses are listed as fulfilling Humanities requirements for the associates' degree or for transfer. However, the courses are one of many options for students and with the perception that philosophy is a difficult subject, they choose other electives. The dean suggested increasing the number of critical thinking sections (PHIL 105) since it is one of three courses on campus (ENGL 1C and PSYC 3)

Marketing Philosophy Program

Advertising and marketing the value of Philosophy courses was discussed at length. Among some possible approaches included the possibility of linking with Forensics students as part of a debate, more involvement in the Majors Fair, as well as the New Student Welcome Day program. R. Firestone has signed up for the August 24th event. The dean suggested hosting an end of year symposium similar to the Anthropology and Psychology ones that attract a large student audience and showcases student research. Also, request support from Counseling in promoting the importance of students taking philosophy courses since these assist students in developing their analytical and critical thinking skills essential for their success in college. Posters and other literature can be developed by the division office as well.

Curriculum Update

PHIL 103 and 120 are to be approved this semester by the CCC as part of course review. No other Philosophy courses are due until spring 2019. PHIL 112 (History of Modern Philosophy) and PHIL 113 (Contemporary Philosophy) have received GE articulation for both CSUs and UCs.

SLOs Update

Department faculty members have been assigned SLOs to assess as follows: PHIL 101 (#2—R. Firestone), PHIL 103 (#3—F. Leon), PHIL 106 (#2—E. Shadish) and PHIL 113 (#1—R. Firestone). R. Firestone will lead the follow-up actions phase on fall 2015 assessment reports.

2016-2017 Planning

F. Leon discussed some of the fall 2015 program review recommendations that were included in the 2016-17 planning process. These included the development of new courses such as feminist philosophy

and one on Latin American philosophy. A full-time faculty position request will be difficult to achieve until enrollments improve. An S.I. coach request is needed and the dean will follow-up with L. Barrueta to see if the department can have the services of one next fall 2016.

Department Activities

The Philosophy Club meets weekly and participates in movie night discussions periodically. The last movie night philosophy discussion included three faculty and ten students.

F. Leon's work on Epistemology is ready to go to press. R. Firestone is planning to give a guest lecture on Taoism on May 3rd as part of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. He is also working on a paper on free will.

Meeting adjourned: 1:50 p.m.

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