

FES Department Meeting

Wednesday, January 12th at 8:30am, Zoom only

Attendees:

Chris Adlam	Dawn Anzinger	Sam Bell
Ashley D’Antonio	EJ Davis	Lina DiGregorio
Vernita Ediger	Autumn Ellison	Reem Hajjar
Troy Hall	Skyuler Herzog	Lara Jacobs
Eric Jones	Katy Kavanagh	Meg Krawchuk
Leon Liegel	Misty Magers	Ian Munanura
Michael Nelson	Holly Ober	Rajat Panwar
Melora Park	Ron Reuter	Paul Ries
Bill Ripple	Stacy Rosenberg	Adam Sibley
Dave Stemper	Chris Still	Steve Strauss
Juliet Sutton	Eli Swanson	

Troy Hall – Updates and General announcements

Department Announcements:

- Covid updates: OSU is sticking with in-person teaching at this time. Faculty will work individually with their department head to make decisions when they or their students get sick. Pay attention to the emails Dan Larson is sending; they have instructions on how to report cases and contact trace. Encourage testing for yourselves and your students. Testing is available at two locations on campus and a few other locations in the city.
- Food Pantry and Food Drive updates: A new committee has formed to run the soon-to-be open food pantry next to the Peavy atrium, and to combat food waste. Look out for emails with more details soon, and if you would like to participate please get in touch with Juliet Sutton or Jessica Fitzmorris. As of now, the February food drive will proceed normally. If details change due to Covid we will communicate that to you as soon as possible. Look out for a weekly food drive digest email with opportunities to volunteer and participate.
- Ann Van Zee encourages us to continue to contact her when you have stories and research you want to show up in the college publications.
- Elliot State Forest updates and meetings are coming soon.
- The DEI committee is working on holistic reviews of how our curricula (especially undergraduate programs) address DEI (materials, topics, pedagogy). As part of this, the committee has developed discussion prompts for inclusion in faculty PROFs this winter. Please review those and be prepared to discuss them with Troy. Ashley D’Antonio is leading the sub-committee (assisted by Kira Minehart), so if you are on one of the curriculum committees she may contact you soon. Also, the college is near to finalizing the policy we have been developing on incorporating DEI into position descriptions and the yearly review process (PROFs). (This has been reviewed and discussed in each department, all other college units, Dean’s Staff, the DEI Workgroup, and FEC.)

- Mindy Crandall will soon release a list of DEI related activities and workshops in the coming year. Troy Hall will run a workshop on writing and reading diversity statements (March 14).
- Staffing: The Econ/policy and Forest carbon position committees are working hard to get their final candidates set, and both have good pools of candidates. Right now, we are still talking about on-campus interviews but we are working on alternate plans.
- Rajat Panwar is joining FES. He was hired for WSE at first but it has quickly become clear that he is a better fit for FES. He is the new SNR certificate director.

Dawn Anzinger/Paul Ries - peer review of draft revised teaching policy

- This revision serves to align our policy more closely with the new university framework.
- This meeting we will have time for discussion and we will plan to vote during the February meeting.
- They are considering making the planning meeting with the faculty member optional. Everyone in the meeting generally agreed it is a good idea to encourage it when appropriate but ultimately make it optional.
- Should the self-assessment be written ahead of time, or just discussed in the planning meeting? Should we let the faculty member choose? Some people favor writing this out so that they can use it for other processes like P&T that do require written responses. The people in the meeting generally supported having the policy state that the self-assessment should be written, but allow an out for people to communicate some sensitive information verbally. Setting a minimum and maximum page length for this document may solve most of the issues as well.
- Should the basic fact sheet be made available to the department? This is important for the review committee but does not go to others (e.g., is not included in the committee's report), so it is best to keep it private.
- Who should go through peer teaching review? Right now, for the most part, it is faculty but it may be a good idea to expand that to anyone who has teaching in their PD, or setting a credit hour threshold where peer reviews would kick in. Most people seem to like keeping the current text for its flexibility.
- There was discussion about how much of the review should focus on the instructor and their teaching, versus on the content of courses. Troy pointed out that curriculum content is the purview of faculty via curriculum committees, so individual faculty do not always have the ability to change course content. Thus, she feels it is more important to evaluate the instruction, not the courses. While pre-tenure faculty must be reviewed twice, tenured faculty currently undergo less frequent reviews- do we still approve of that? While there were points raised both for keeping this as it is and for increasing the frequency of reviews, overall the people present did not have strong feelings on the issue.
- There is a proposal to add a second "continuing mentor" position two to reduce the burden of the job.
- Please send your input to Dawn and then we will circulate the new draft in advance of the February meeting. We will then plan to vote in that meeting.

Michael Nelson – College strategic planning update

- A Google doc link was shared during the December meeting for people to record their comments. These were consolidated and that document was sent around with the agenda for today's meeting. Michael will share that document with the advisory board.
- The consultants are currently working on completing the 15-20 stakeholder interviews but should be done soon.
- The committee is still meeting once a month.

Michael Boock-- Professor and Scholarly Communication Librarians – Discussion on publication accessibility issues

- A committee has been formed to engage the OSU community in discussions about equitable publication access. They are developing a set of reasonable terms and conditions for negotiating with publishers.
- Michael explains open access and its importance. OSU has a policy approved in 2013 that all OSU publications will be available free.
- Subscription prices continue to increase and the OSU library has had to cancel some journals due to cost.
- They are currently working on a draft principles proposal that OSU would use to guide their relationships with publishers. The Faculty Senate would vote on this in the spring.