

School of Journalism and Mass Communications Faculty Zoom Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2020

Faculty, staff and graduate students in attendance: Julie Adam, Darcy Altschwager, Olushola Aromona, Annalise Baines, Genelle Belmas, Kerry Benson, Gerri Berendzen, Matthew Blomberg, Peter Bobkowski, Ann Brill, Cal Butcher, Yvonne Chen, Jerry Crawford, Cade Cruickshank, George Diepenbrock, Joseph Erba, Chris Etheridge, Ever Figueroa, Teri Finneman, Patricia Gaston, Mugur Geana, Kristen Glover, Melissa Greene-Blye, Thomas Heapes, Angie Hendershot, Penny Hodge, Carol Holstead, Muhammad Ittefaq, Jammie Johnson, Mark Johnson, Himee Kamatuka, Rob Karwath, Heather Lawrenz, Pan Liu, Yuchen Liu, Frances Lyons, Chuck Marsh, Nancy Mays, Dan McCarthy, Lisa McLendon, Eddie Munoz, Kerry Navinsky, Nhung Nguyen, Jennifer Paasch, Scott Reinardy, Janet Rose, Steve Rottinghaus, Rebekka Schlichting, Hyunjin Seo, Marlys Shulda, Eric Thomas, Matt Tidwell, Gayle Vannicola, Tom Volek, Mike Vrabac, Hong Vu, Al Wallace, Doug Ward, Anthony Whaley and Steve Wolgast.

Dean updates (Brill)

The spring semester, beginning on Feb. 1, will likely resemble the fall semester. Enrollment is down only 1% from last year.

Admissions update (Himee Kamatuka, Frances Lyons, Scott Reinardy, Matt Tidwell)

Himee: following KU's guidelines for admission. Students can gain direct entry to the J-School with:

- Admitted to KU and indicate journalism as intended major **and**
- Have composite 24 ACT/1160* SAT (or higher) and 3.0 GPA **or**
- 21 ACT/1060 SAT (or higher) and 3.25 GPA **or**
- 3.4 GPA on a 4.0 scale, no test scores required

Additionally, we've opened up a conditional admit for students with a GPA between 3.0 and 3.39. So far this only effects about 15 of the 253 students admitted (as of last Friday). Thankfully, our admit number has gone up to 290. We plan to keep an eye on these students throughout next school year to see if this is an admission standard we'd like to continue. These changes are only in effect for 2021-2022. We plan to bring it up for further discussion Spring 2022 after we've seen how students performed their first semester.

Frances – retention efforts

Scott – advising doing tremendous job and Himee doing great job recruiting

Emergency fund and KUEA – grocery cards; mental health counseling; funds from donors

Frances said we only had one student who did not return; Eddie had one student leave the J-School to persue a different path; Dan encountered some who were cutting costs

Matt – MSJ, PhD strong with seven applications already for next year

Scott Reinardy – wintermester has high enrollment (only online) and students appreciate the long break; working on summer and fall courses

Brill – the wintermester and summer will be only on-line; considering a large immersion experience to keep students on campus during summer.

Search updates

Faculty lines (Chen)

Yvonne Chen reported on how the search for faculty members is going. She stated, "The search committee has personally reached out to a number of graduate directors to promote our openings. Thanks to Michelle & Matt, who helped us place an ad in IABC and PRSA, respectively. Thanks also to Melissa, Ever and Chris for promoting the openings to their colleagues and peers. We also plan to meet in early January to start reviewing the applications."

Staff – Brill reported the positions held by Gayle Vannicola and Penny Hodge will be filled soon. The business manager position will be filled on a part-time basis and on a six month trial by the Law School Finance Director. A direct hire is planned for the position of exec. asst. to the dean.

Faculty Senate updates (Chen, Gaston)

Chen and Gaston reported rpk Group, consulting firm, has been hired by the university. Budget, transparency and accountability were discussed in the meeting.

Chen reported salary distribution for faculty will be changed from nine-month to twelve-month.

Changes are also coming to the tuition assistant program.

Gaston reported FRPR (Faculty Rights Privileges and Responsibilities) has been looking at instructor workload and a committee from faculty governance reworked a freedom of expression document for the Council of Faculty Senate presidents. That document has been shared with KBOR.

Discussion of structural changes

KU is down to one database (OCK)

All Faculty need to update their PRO reports. The basics needed are an updated CV and 500 words describing teaching, research and service and should be updated a couple times per year.

The fact that J-School “tracks” are never static was discussed and the name “tracks” will likely change.

The Kansas Board of Regents must okay any degree change and KU will designate which words to use in place of “tracks”. These changes will be discussed further in the spring semester.

Comments of gratitude to Penny and Gayle who are retiring Dec. 31