

Faculty and Staff Meeting

September 24, 2021

Clarkson Gallery

Faculty and staff in attendance: Mauryne Abwoa, Julie Adam, Eric Adler, Darcey Altschwager, Jason Anderson, Olushola Aromona, Annalise Baines, Genelle Belmas, Gerri Berendzen, Matthew Blomberg, Peter Bobkowski, Brent Bowen, Ann Brill, Jessica Brown, Cal Butcher, Kim Callahan, Yvonne Chen, Brittney Clark, Jeff Conlin, Ted Cotti, Jerry Crawford, Cade Cruickshank, JJ De Simone, Vaibhav Diwanji, Joseph Erba, Chris Etheridge, Ever Figueroa, Teri Finneman, Patricia Gaston, Mugur Geana, Melissa Greene-Blye, Ren Harn, Christopher Heady, Angie Hendershot, Jill Hinrich, Carol Holstead, Charlie Huette, Erica Hunzinger, Muhammad Ittefaq, Mark Johnson, David Johnston, Ursula Kamanga, Himee Kamatuka, Pan Liu, Lisa Loewen, Nyan Lynn, Frances Lyons, Nancy Mays, Dan McCarthy, Lisa McLendon, Maddy Mikinski, Eddie Munoz, Kerry Navinsky, Nhung Nguyen, Jennifer Paasch, Barb Padget, Pamela Peters, Heather Physioc, Cindy Reinardy, Scott Reinardy, Janet Rose, Steve Rottinghaus, Suzanne Scales, Rebekka Schlichting, Hyunjin Seo, Fatemeh Shayesteh, Marlys Shulda, R. Stangler, Eric Thomas, Matt Tidwell, Alex Treaster, Mike Vrabac, Hong Vu, Al Wallace, Doug Ward, John Watson, Anthony Whaley, and Stephen Wolgast

Dean's report by Ann Brill

Dean Brill announced the Latin American and Caribbean Studies grant/projects in follow up to a recent message that was sent to all.

The KBOR Assessment is a critical thing we will do. The assessment will apply to lots of areas.

Associate Dean report by Scott Reinardy

Scott Reinardy gave an associate dean report. He said they are in the final stages of scheduling. The schedules will go live on the 30th. Scheduling was more challenging this year. The final schedules will be out to faculty shortly. Reinardy shared historical enrollment data. In 2015, enrollment in the School was 887. There has since been a dip in enrollment. This is a national trend. The number enrolled in Journalism minors is down. Also, the number of students coming from other majors into Journalism is down. There is growth in mass communications and content creation. He stated there is much going on now that now we are back on campus. Assessment and accreditation are coming up.

Associate Dean report by Hyunjin Seo

Hyunjin Seo gave an update. The student handbook was updated. Seo said that graduate students should complete their comprehensive exam during the summer of their second year or fall semester third year. It takes about two months to complete the written and oral exams and students should finish by mid-September. Seo encouraged faculty to keep this in mind so that students can apply for opportunities.

Seo discussed the research group. The research group will be listed on the website. Forming a research group is important for grants and research experience for graduate students.

The Promotion and Tenure committee is updating promotion and tenure guidelines and standards. Seo introduced Kim Bruns, a new hire. Bruns will be responsible for identifying grant opportunities and

awards. Ann Brill mentioned that precise language is needed in responding to Foundation opportunities. There are many foundation opportunities at KU.

Overview of the Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) role by Himee Kamatuka

Himee Kamatuka shared a PowerPoint slide and read a Land Acknowledgement from KU Center for Community Health and Development. Kamatuka stated that she hopes to have a Land Acknowledgement from Journalism. She gave the pronunciation of her name--him-A. Kamatuka gave a brief intro sharing that her parents were Namibia refugees, she's a J-School alum, has experience with TRIO programs and her hobbies include music, Bravo shows, and travel. Kamatuka briefly described her duties in her new role: DEIB advisor, DIAG committee member, collaborate with search committees, coordinate JMC Multicultural Scholars Program, JMC liaison to all units on campus working on DEIB objectives, and DEIB education and guidance for all faculty, staff, and students.

Kamatuka said that JMC does a good job for DEIB. Kamatuka said she would like to see outside classroom activities such as bowling, to build a stronger group of belonging. She would like the School to be the role model at KU for DEIB. Next, Kamatuka plans to reach out to each person in the J-School and discuss their concerns and experiences. She encouraged all to use her as a resource. Her office is in 117.

Dean Brill said a recruitment ad was placed last week for an academic advisor and that if you know someone, maybe a recent alum, encourage them to apply.

Overview of (new) JMC website by Julie Adam

Julie Adam gave an update on the new JMC website. The website transition began over a year ago and the deadline was extended from November to July 2022. Adam said the reason the transition is taking so long is that every page needs to be updated and photos need to be a higher resolution. The website update is about 75% complete. Adam gave a demonstration of the new website. Ann Brill said that the website transition is not an update, but that it is a rebuild.

The website information needs to be accessible, which is something Kerry Navinsky is helping with. Adam said that the University is no longer using Faculty Pro and Academic Analytics is what's new. Adam showed the document library and explained that all documents need to be updated. She said that everyone should update their photo for the website. There was a discussion of setting up a photo opportunity in the J School.

Committee reports

Peter Bobkowski gave an update for the Curriculum and Assessment committee. Other committee members are Yvonne Chen, Pat Gaston, Janet Rose and two students. Priorities for the committee include updating process of approving courses for catalog and reviewing language requirement. He said students are encouraged to have another major and a minor. He also said they would like to look at charges which haven't been updated since 2008.

Carol Holstead gave an update on the Diversity in Action Group. Holstead said the committee, comprised of members Melissa Green-Blye, Himee Kamatuka, Jammie Johnson and students, could use another undergrad student on the committee. In the last meeting they discussed speakers and they are checking on Rebecca Nagel's availability. The committee will meet again October 25.

Teri Finneman gave an update for the Technology Committee. The committee plans to survey faculty which technology and software is being used in the classroom. They also plan to survey students.

Mugar Geana and Matt Tidwell gave an update on searches. The tenure track faculty position description has been finalized. The list of outlets for advertising the position has been identified. The committee will use social media to promote the position. They are still discussing the deadline to review. The market is tight for tenured positions, as there are not many available. Encourage letting qualified applicants know of the opportunity.

Lisa McLendon gave an update for Multimedia Journalism. They are tracking that later classes are building on earlier classes. Also, they are working on a vision statement. They are working on recognizing students for experiential learning. McLendon discussed the creation of pop-up courses. They are introducing JOUR 319 for 1 credit. This can be a pop-up class for 5 weeks, or on Saturdays and offer something to the students they might not have in a course. An example is a pop-up class on drones.

Joseph Erba gave a report for Strategic Communication. In the first meeting last Friday the mission and vision statement and Jayhawks Rising were discussed. Erba said they are looking at where they want students to be at graduation, and how to get them there. Ann Brill congratulated Erba for being selected as an Administrative Fellow.

Announcements

Doughnuts with the Dean is coming back.

We have two donors who are supporting projects with innovative ideas. Brill sent out an email message with details and this is an exciting opportunity.

The dean said that admissions standards for the university would be 2.0 gpa, but the School has standards of either a 3.0 plus an ACT score of 21 or a 3.25 without an ACT score, or lower score. The school is not thinking of lowering gpa requirements. Brill briefly mentioned accreditation is coming up and it is a whole year process. First, we need to pass Assessment. If you don't pass Assessment, you are guaranteed not to pass Accreditation.

There are fundraising opportunities with Marlys Shulda, KUEA. Brill said she doesn't think there are budget cuts this year.

Scott Reinardy stressed the importance of mental health for everyone. He said to bring in food for the pantry, if you are able. What's needed most is soup, easy microwavable meals and non-perishables.

Janet Rose reminded everyone that Town Hall is scheduled 9/30 from 1:00-3:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned.