

Minutes from Curriculum and Teaching Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 3:00 pm
Via Zoom

Those present: James Babanikos (chair), Huan Chen, Won-Ki Moon, Myiah Hutchens, Angela Bradbery, Roxane Coche, Tim Sorel, Ted Spiker, Harrison Hove, Kasey Windels, Judy Hunter

Announcements/Updates

- **Unify America.** Babanikos asked the chairs to encourage their faculty to offer extra credit for students wanting to take part in the Unify America project, in which students of opposite political viewpoints from various universities will spend an hour talking to each other and hopefully bring them closer together. As the title of the program suggests, it's a way to decrease polarization and unify the country.
- **UF Upward Bound Math/Science.** This is a program that UF is resurrecting through the Community Engagement and Diversity outreach to prepare local student from underprivileged backgrounds get into and succeed in college. UF has partnered with Hawthorn and Eastside High Schools, and 60 low-income/ first generation are taking part (43 are low income and first gen; 17 are low income or first gen). Colleges (including non-STEM colleges like ours) are asked to help by: providing student mentors; creating Saturday or after school workshops; or anything else the college can think of (like inviting some of these students to take part in the Summer Media Institute, perhaps?).
- **AI Updates.** The AI Squared Center is looking to incentivize faculty (by providing funds) to developing new AI courses, or to develop modules on AI for existing courses. Faculty can do this as an overload, provided they're approved by the department chair. Also, Eric Deumens, head of UF Computing, said his office would be very happy to meet with the college or department or unit faculty to talk about UF computing and what services they can offer, such as: collaboration with faculty on projects; an invitation to identify transformative projects; NVIDIA's support for Gator Tron-like initiatives. He assured us that there are resources available for big ideas!

Discussion Items

- **JOU3015: Principles of Journalism.** It was decided that this new JOU course would be added to the primary list of courses for the Minor in Mass Communications. Babanikos would start the process of getting this approved through the University curriculum Committee (UCC).
- **ACEJMC Accreditation.** The CJC self-study for the ACELMC reaccreditation will be written this year, and this committee (mostly Babanikos and the department chairs) will

be responsible for two sections: Standard 2: Curriculum and Instruction; and Standard 3: Assessment of learning Outcomes. Babanikos touched upon the Assessment section, reminding the chairs that there are three direct and indirect measures of assessment:

- Direct Measures:
 - Senior Learning Assessment.
 - Capstone projects evaluated by industry professionals.
 - Internships.

- Indirect Measures:
 - Student awards.
 - Job placement.
 - Exit surveys.

Babanikos reiterated the fact that ACEJMC really puts a lot of value on involving industry professionals in our assessment, so Direct Measure 2 is especially significant.

- **Draft Policy for Grade Appeals.** The CJC Grade Appeals policy was last approved in February 2016, and the committee revisited it this session. There was some confusion regarding Basis of Appeal 3b, that “A significant deviation from the syllabus of the class (dropping an exam, increased weighting of a project from what was described in the syllabus, the introduction of a new assessment not mentioned in the syllabus).” Harrison Hove said that sometimes there are extenuating circumstances in which changes need to be made to the syllabus in the course of a semester, and Babanikos reached out to Ron Anderson, the university ombudsman, for clarity. Anderson said that instructors can modify a syllabus during the semester if there are extenuating circumstances, but the modifications that are made should only help the students and be in their best interest. The Grade Appeals policy was approved basically as it was, noting this clarification of syllabi modifications.

- **Quest 2 classes.** The CJC is contractually obligated to provide 3% of the seats for Quest 2 classes, which amounts to roughly around 210 a year. We’ve been able to do this quite easily over the last couple of years thanks largely to Michael Weigold’s “Happiness” course. However, Weigold will be retiring in the spring of 2024, and so will the “Happiness” course with him. Luckily, there we still have two Quest 2 CJC courses that are being taught, both from journalism: “Future Food” and “Journalism, Justice & Civic Change.” However, it would be prudent to have a couple of other CJC Quest 2 courses developed and ready to go should either of these two courses not be available in the future.

- **Outstanding International Student Achievement Awards.** The CJC can nominate up to two international students for the 2023 Outstanding International Student Achievement award. 22 students are eligible. The committee discussed how best to pick out the two candidates. It was agreed that the best thing to do is to prioritize seniors on the list, and

those who have a gpa of 3.65 or higher. There were six such students. The committee then decided to email these six students and ask them to provide a resumé and a 600-word essay on why they deserve the honor. The committee will then look at the essays/resumés and vote for the two winners. Babanikos was going to email the six finalists.

The meeting ended at 3:50 pm. Minutes submitted by James Babanikos.