

College of Journalism & Communications- Dept of Public Relations

Minutes of August 25, 2017 Faculty Meeting

3-4pm 2066 Weimer Hall

Those present: Marcia DiStaso, Rita Men, Deanna Pelfrey, Linda Hon, Kay Tappan, Pat Ford, Carma Bylund.

Not attending: Dr. Kiouis, Kathleen Kelly, Moon Lee, MaryAnn Ferguson, Ann Christiano.

Meeting called to order by Dr. DiStaso. Note was made of audio recorder in use because so many faculty were unable to attend this meeting. This was agreed to by all present & no one objected to its being used. This audio recording is available to listen to in the ShareDrive at S:\Public Relations\Office\pr-oa\Faculty\Faculty Meetings.

Order of Business/Discussion Items

- 1.) New positions – Dr. DiStaso announced there has been approval for new positions to benefit the department as well as the College. There will be 15 positions total- 10 Lecturers & 5 Teacher/Scholars. This is in order to provide better student/faculty ratio & better service our students. These positions will serve the College via the departments & all are encouraged to work together across the College. Each dept will get 1 Teacher/Scholar & the Lecturers will be distributed on need-based criteria though all will be expected to be for the benefit of the College-wide community no matter the dept assigned.

There will be a Search Committee formed to fill these positions consisting of 1 representative from each dept. There will be a non-dept Chair assigned to head the Committee. The best candidates will be searched for regardless of dept or specialty. 5 will be hired to start Fall 2018 & there will be one Lecturer to start in Spring 18.

Dr. DiStaso is asking PR Faculty to put some thought into the representative for the PR dept.- it needs to be decided by all who would be the best to represent the dept, what skills this person has, what attributes, strengths etc. She also asks the faculty to think about the specific job description they would like to see the Lecturer position have for the dept. She is available to meet with anyone who wants to discuss these things or any other concerns, issues about this entire process as it affects the future direction of the department. In addition, she would like to know what the faculty feels about the concept of a visiting professional position & if they support this or no.

- 2.) Advisory Council- Dr. DiStaso stated that Iliana Rodriguez, current Chair of the PR Advisory Council, is not responding to emails. There is a marked communication issue with her. Dr. DiStaso would like the faculty's approval to cancel the Fall Advisory Council meeting. Iliana has called a Fall meeting date that was only available to 5 Council members & Dr. DiStaso feels this is not a productive use of anyone's time & everyone would be better served to look forward to a Spring Council meeting that can be better planned & attended by many members. The Vice-Chair of the Council, Keith Bowermaster, has also expressed to Dr. DiStaso his wish to overthrow Iliana of her Chair position as he is hoping for better leadership for the Council. Dr. DiStaso would also welcome the faculty's feedback on this issue as the Fall meeting needs to be officially cancelled as soon as possible if that is the consensus.

- 3.) The Spring 2018 Schedule is in the works. Please forward any request/concerns to Dr. DiStaso.

- 4.) Enrollment Report- Will be forwarded to faculty for review. International student enrollment is drastically down. Linda Hon expressed concern about the new Grad student enrollment being low as well.

Dr. DiStaso opened the floor for any pressing issues. Noted an invitation for another meeting to be set for next week will be sent out right away as there are urgent issues that need to be discussed.

Meeting called at 3:02 pm.