

# **Sociology and Philosophy Department Minutes**

**April 9, 2014**

**4 pm in 26A 2640**

## **Attendance:**

Linda Rillorta, Andrea Diem, Charles McGruder, Marlene Gallarde, Rebecca Hatch, Michelle Stewart Thomas

## **Minutes**

- The March 12, 2014 minutes were approved

## **Scheduling**

- Faculty were reminded to check their schedules in the portal early and often
  - The fall schedule may be up next week
- The Instruction Team will be making adjustments to the philosophy schedule based on student needs
- Three-hour classes must be scheduled within the sociology time blocks
  - It is not too late for faculty to submit a change to their fall schedule
- Adjuncts who don't meet the departmental standards will be given a written warning that will be recorded on their evaluation (H8). However, any load reductions resulting from subpar performance will not be reflected until Spring 2015 to give adjuncts a chance to improve their scores
  - Adjuncts who miss deadlines for students evaluations can be assigned a 4 on their (H8)
  - Adjuncts must be involved in activities to benefit the department in order to be assigned 3 classes (attending a conference, helping with a student club, etc.)
- Soft Link Benefits
  - \$500 - \$1000 Stipends are available for faculty willing to link their course with another course; courses must be back to back
  - The course size of the linked courses will be based on the smaller of the two
  - Contact Person: Lisa Rodriguez (x4117)

## **Curriculum**

- AA-T (now ADT-Associate Degree Transfer) for Soc and Phil have been completed and submitted to the Division for approval
- The department approved additional courses to add to the ADT for Philosophy

## **Recruitment**

- Philosopher McGruder plans to mentor Ivan Tircuit through the Intern/Mentor Program
  - The Intern/Mentor program was discussed
- Chairperson Gallarde is asking for recommendations of experienced professors since many of the applicants have little/no experience

## **Budget / Financial Matters**

- Our allotted budget has been spent
  - Each year we are allotted \$1000 from the Lottery Fund and \$1000 from the College
- MTSAC is not willing to pay for the plagiarism program

## **Academic Senate/Academic Senate Report**

Chairperson Gallarde attended the March meetings and emailed reports to all department faculty

## **SLO/GEO**

SLO/GEOs are up to date.

## **Student Misconduct**

Chairperson Gallarde recommends that faculty report all instances of plagiarism; she will also see if Maryann can supply us with data on departmental trends in reported student misconduct

## **Faculty Misconduct**

A discussion ensued about whether adjuncts who say or do something inappropriate in the classroom (i.e. make a sexist or racist comment) should be rehired. One thought is that faculty should know what is appropriate within an academic environment. Another view expressed would be to use a person's mistake as a "teaching moment" and correct the behavior. Concerns about making hiring decisions based on students' false or unsubstantiated claims were also raised.

## **Faculty Sabbatical (Deadline: December 1)**

- According to Philosopher Diem, faculty have three options for sabbatical activities:
  - travel and give a report
  - take classes
  - study and write on an approved topic

## **Additional Reports/Announcements**

- Chairperson Gallarde attended PSA from March 27 - 29

- Sociologists Hatch attended the CUR Institute for Integrating Undergraduate into the Curriculum March 28 – 30; it was held in Florida
- The fourth annual Research Showcase will be held April 22 to noon to 4 at 9c stage. Please invite your students.
- Philosophers Diem and Lane have published a book: *Is the Universe an App? Exploring the Physics of Awareness*
- McGruder reported that the Philosophy Club is official!
- Sociologist Rillorta announced that there is a Cultural Fair taking place on campus today from 3 – 6pm
- Sociologist Stewart Thomas reminded department members that there will be a suicide prevention workshop next week hosted by Student Health
- Sociologist Stewart Thomas will be conducting a workshop for clergywomen this Saturday on caring for their mental health
- Chairperson Gallarde announced that the department will be collecting snacks for the veterans
- Sociologist Stewart Thomas suggested that we invite a guest to one of our department meetings to discuss retirement issues.

Minutes were prepared by Sociologist Stewart Thomas