School of Journalism
Faculty Meeting Minutes, Friday, March 7, 2014

Those in attendance: Brett Akagi, Barbara Barnett, Tim Bengtson, Peter Bobkowski, Ann Brill, Cal Butcher, Yvonnes Chen, Jerry Crawford, Penny Hodge, Carol Holstead, Tien Lee, Denise Linville, Chuck Marsh, Lisa McLendon, Corrie Moore, Kelli Nichols, Patty Noland, Bill Oates, Scott Reinardy, Hyunjin Seo, Susanne Shaw, Max Utsler, Gayle Vannicola, Tom Volek, Mike Vrabac, Doug Ward and Mike Williams.

Dean Brill announced the hiring of Associate Professor Genelle Belmas and Assistant Professor Joseph Erba who will join the School in August. She discussed the Agency and the search for a director. Everyone was encouraged to help with the recruiting. Enrollment numbers are down and all were asked to be engaged and helpful with the situation.

Mike Williams proposed the inclusion of Journalism as an area of concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Computing degree offered by the School of Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The goal is to broaden the engineering students learning beyond computer science. Journalism has been approached to be the first non-science unit to offer a BSIC concentration. More information was provided and faculty will have the opportunity to vote on the proposal at a later date.

An overview and discussion of 300-level courses was led by Professors Barnett, Lee, and Reinardy.

J300 Visual Storytelling
- J300 is missing basic code principals in web building.
- What assessment tool can be used to verify students' understanding?
- Consistencies and set standards are needed in all sections to assure students are taught the same material in all sections. Objective measurements are needed.
- Theoretical aspect is needed to spur students' thinking.
- How can skills be tested without a lab section?

J302 Infomania
- Survey conduction/design should not be taught at this level. More formal structure is needed.
- GTA's should plan to provide the same instruction week by week for all sections.
- A final research project should probably be included as well as an introduction to plagiarism.

J304 Media Writing
- Many kinds of writing should be discussed but clear, concise writing should be the main goal.
- Video production should be deleted from this class and the focus should be on writing.
- Video skills should be taught in J210 (J210 class offerings would likely need to be quadrupled).

The recent student writing assessment summary was discussed. All agreed that classes need to be evaluated from the upper to the lower levels to determine whether skills and tools needed are supported by previous courses. Skills to be learned in a class should be clearly stated on syllabi and a visual map should be available to students to show what is needed for classes.

Meeting adjourned.

Priorities AY2014: Master's program direction and solutions; Hiring great colleagues this year; Developing strategies for online courses; Creating more opportunities for students, especially the student agency; Fundraising.