Present: Members: Scott Clark, Rahul Gomes, Abby Hemmerich, Mary Hoffman, Marquell Johnson, Carol Koroghlanian, Bill Miller, Dalete Mota, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Evan Weiher
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Jeff Goodman, Marc Goulet, Sonja Meiers, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from April 26, 2022
   ▪ Motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2022, as submitted. Motion was seconded and approved (8-0-0).

2. Department of Psychology Program Review
   ▪ Jeff Goodman was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Brought department together, previous self-study was a draft for new chair to pull together and submit. This self-study was one of the first things he completed as new chair. Reviewed what has been accomplished, challenges, where the department sees itself in the future.
   ▪ PSYC 271 bottlenecking? How many FTE/sections are offered and what would be the ideal number?
     • Methods of Research is a required course and serves as prereq for many upper-level courses (along with MATH 246). Number of majors (241) has continued to increase since 2015; however, no additional faculty were hired. Offer six sections each semester and two sections in the summer. 1.5 FTE split among three faculty. Lecture split into two labs. Tricky to fit in load, give credit to lab rather than lecture due to intensive time commitment. Offer load differences in other semesters to make up for it. One more section/year would be helpful; two could alleviate bottlenecks.
     • If bottleneck issue was fixed, 300-level courses wouldn’t be able to handle the additional students; the issue would not be resolved. Additional faculty would be needed.
   ▪ Inequitable content-specific advising clarification?
     • Majority of day-to-day advising completed through course selection, PAC. PSYC 101 and 102 typically taken in first year spend time on 4-year degree plan, career exploration, and play an important role in early advising. Majors are assigned to a departmental advisor, try to match using stated interests.
   ▪ Faculty make-up? Possibility of assigning mentors?
     • 18 FT faculty, 1 FT IAS and 1 FT IAS (teaches CE). Three are pre-tenure. Suggestion department assigns mentors; not aware pre-tenured faculty members feel like they’re not being mentored.
       * Because of the number of tenure vs. tenure-track, requiring a mentor is in the best interest of tenure-track. Many things tenure-track faculty don’t know/won’t ask. Too many benefits to go without.
       * Bad mentors almost worse than no mentor at all; faculty affected most by bad mentoring are LGBTQ, women, and persons of color. Important to have a good match; not always obvious.
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- Are faculty content with the PSYC 271 situation?
  - Viewed as the most essential course majors take, has important learning and identity development components, research-related skills. Faculty feel students fear the course prior to taking it and are dedicated to all majors taking it, students think they learn more in the course than any other. It is also required for minors. Because it’s less critical, have been liberal with petitions (CSD/KINS Research Methods) to help with the bottleneck for majors.

- Do all majors really need the course?
  - Have discussed the possibility of creating a separate course “exploring research methods.” Sent students a survey. Wouldn’t help with scheduling or bottlenecks, trading one course for another and the course is also required for grad school.

- Concern about any upcoming retirements?
  - Had three retirements one year, nothing forthcoming. Another challenge is the School Psychology program needs three school psychologists to teach it and they’re unable to contribute to undergrad curriculum.

- New science building/vivarium concerns?
  - Current proposal indicates all animal research on campus will take place in the new science building, animal researchers have attended new science building meetings. Difficult to say if new vivarium will even meet the researchers’ needs due to customized space and equipment requirements. Also concerned with lack of space for any new hires. Currently, all animal researchers use lab on second floor of HHH.

- Does the department or the students see PSYC 271 as a “perceived” bottleneck?
  - Department hopes each new hire will be able to offer a section of 271. Seen as a bottleneck by both department and students. There are 10-15 students each semester who could benefit getting into the course but there is also a perception by students that they need to take the course earlier than they do.

- Students wanting to hear more about research opportunities and internships?
  - Difficult to increase research opportunities. Some motivated students move from one experience to the next; perhaps need to be mindful of those students. Students in senior capstones indicate they wished they had engaged in research. The department has a bulletin board with faculty descriptions of interests/research. Students talk to PSYC 101 and 102 instructors; some faculty send emails to all majors with an application for research. May need to advertise and promote research and internships better.

- Program Review Form Discussion: All in favor of supporting the responses from the chair and dean. Approved (9-0-0).

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting