## **School of Psychology Faculty Meeting**

# Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Present: Audrey Duarte, Susan Embretson, Jamie Gorman, Chris Hertzog, Rustin Meyer, Dobromir Rahnev, Jim Roberts, Wendy Rogers, Eric Schumacher, Jenny Singleton, Dan Spieler, Davood Tofighi, Bruce Walker, Howard Weiss (Chair), Mark Wheeler

Administrative: Dawn Franklin, Jan Westbrook

Student Reps: Jordan Hartley, Elnora Kelly, Jessie Martin, Ursula Saelzler, Laura Schaeffer

### I. Standards/Expectations for Faculty Promotion (Dr. Weiss)

- A. It would be useful for us to codify our standards and expectations for promotion, both for Assistant to Associate Professor and Associate to Full Professor (should be our general feelings about what constitutes quality of research, teaching, etc.)
- B. Will help us bring together a clearer picture of what we are looking for in the quality of the School.
- C. Dr. Weiss has formed a committee, consisting of Drs. Durso, Hertzog, and Wheeler, to develop this further. The committee will be reaching out to the faculty in the spring to solicit input

### II. Next Year's School Budget (Dr. Weiss)

- A. The Dean has asked the Schools to start thinking about budget requests for next year (for example, two years ago we requested for funds to hire a full time lecturer and last year we requested funds in our budget for additional T.A. support)
  - i. Possibilities include things on both the recurring side (additional T.A. support, a teaching line for another full-time lecturer, staff support, etc.) and non-recurring side (equipment, upgrades to software that would be accessible to students, etc.).

#### **III.** Undergraduate Recruitment and Program Updates (Dr. Singleton)

To: Psych Faculty	Total: 93 majors	
From: Jenny Singleton	SR: 46	Minors: 12
Re: Undergraduate Program Update	JR: 21	
	SO: 13	
	FR: 13 (8 entered Fall 201	5)

#### A) Undergraduate Recruitment

- 1) CoS is coordinating placements for High Schoolers to do lab internships. Let Jenny know if you are potentially interested in mentoring a local high schooler in your lab. One possible model is that we identify a few labs with very defined projects that we offer as a "menu" to prospective HS students; they would be an unpaid volunteer (with paperwork done by CoS for protection measures)
- 2) Audrey is working with Lizanne DeStefano of CEISMC on a potential one-week summer day camp for local HS students; please let Audrey know if you are

interested in getting involved (Note: Dr. Weiss is meeting with Drs. Duarte, Singleton, and Thomas this week to discuss potential themes for the summer camp. If you have ideas about themes, please feel free to let them know). We are also working on the possibility of a summer workshop for HS AP Psychology & other science teachers.

- 3) CoS has a good relationship with a few Atlanta-area magnet programs that have a high number of GT applicants. They would be willing to coordinate a visit to their school by our faculty; Also, are there any schools that our faculty have an independent recruiting relationship with? Please let Jenny know.
- 4) GT applications (Early Action Oct 15<sup>th</sup> shows GT is up 28%, with sig. increase in out of state applicants) Last year at this point we had 84 Psychology undergrad applicants, this year we have 129! We will get a list on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> of those admitted to Psychology (probably around 50). I will be asking faculty to make a personal phone call to 5 to 10 students to encourage them to accept admission. I will give you talking points. Yield from admitted is usually 30%, I'm aiming for 50%! Volunteers to make phone calls?
- 5) Apparently 40% of admitted students switch their majors before they even land on campus. Admissions office suggests we mail a postcard to keep us in their minds.
- 6) Will need faculty to get involved with special recruitment events for admitted students; e.g. "open house" in Psychology on those special "gold carpet days"
- 7) We are encouraging Psych undergrads to apply to be campus tour guides
- 8) Get a psychology undergrad "story" into the Admissions "slider" stories; any standout student stories?
- 9) Continue to work on our School's homepage to make sure that it appeals to the 17 year old prospective student; also starting up social media

## **B) Undergraduate Program Enhancement**

- 1) Psych Club for ugrads re-launched, officers elected
- 2) Develop longer range course planning (faculty survey complete)
- 3) Organizing lab recruitment information (on website, bulletin board)
- 4) Enhancing connectedness through social media
- 5) Exploring the development of a structured research experience that can connect to GT's "serve-learn-sustain" initiative; "public service pathway"
- C) Reviewing new MCAT2015 Psychology+Sociology section; Pre-Health advisors at GT would like us to help them see which of our courses are best fit for preparation (working group volunteers?)

#### D) Possibly Revising the Psych Minor

Current challenges:

- 18 hours required (of which 12 hrs must be 3000 level or higher, which leaves 6 hrs that could be 1000 or 2000 level)
- Minors are required to take:
  - o PSYC 2015 (Res Methods, 4 hrs)
  - o PSYC 2020 (Stats, 4 hrs)
  - o PSYC 1101 (3 hrs)

- o so that's 11 hours of non-3000 level or higher that we require of them before they have even started on the 12 hours of 3000-level or higher required for the minor
- Effectively, students are having to take **23 hours** in order to complete a psych minor when most other minors on campus are 15 hours.
- Special topics, special problems, and undergrad research are EXCLUDED from the minor
  - o most other GT Minors allow for a max of 6 hours of special topics, max of 3 hrs undergrad research to apply toward a minor
- By locking in 11 hours of 1000-and 2000 level coursework requirements, the minors now have no incentive to take any of our 2000 level courses (Human Dev, Social Psyc, I/O, Abnormal Psych, Personality Theory, Engr Psyc, Psy of Creativity) that would normally have been very accessible and very popular with psych minors (and they don't have any other pre-regs besides 1101).

#### Proposal:

- Given that we do offer non-major versions of CogPsy (3012) and S&P (3040) that do not require Res Methods or Stats as prerequisites, it would seem that we could lessen the minor requirements by removing the Res Methods &/or Stats requirements. [Note: all will have Calculus sequence, and many students will have some kind of statistics within their declared major]
- We could require 1101 before declaring the minor. Then they do 15 hours of psychology on top of 1101 (so it's effectively an 18 hour minor)
  - o 6 hours 2000 level courses
  - 9 hours 3000 level or higher courses (we have at least 8 regularly offered courses to choose from, but 2 do have prereqs)
    - CogPsy (non-maj), S&P (non-maj), Cog Neuro, Neuroethics, Psy of Aging, User Interface&Design,
    - Learning & Memory (Res Meth, Stats req), BioPsy (Bio 1520 req)

#### Next Step:

• Dr. Singleton will be sending out a final draft of the proposal. The goal is have the proposal go up before the undergraduate curriculum committee early next year.