

Faculty Meeting 9.12.16

Faculty in attendance: Peter Beerli, Gordon Erlebacher, Chen Huang, Alan Lemmon, Anke Meyer-Baese, Tomasz Plewa, Bryan Quaife, Sachin Shanbhag, Xiaoqiang Wang, Ming Le, Dennis Slice, Janet Peterson

Gordon called the meeting to order--

Agenda--

Hurricane Hermine: Li and Amado came to the meeting to talk about the damages from Hurricane Hermine. Gordon summarized: Hermine hit Thursday night; early Friday morning was when everything started to go bad—in terms of a power outage and heat increase from the computers that kept running, to the point where the sprinklers kicked in.

Li talked about damages: The damage was extensive, but we are 90 percent back to operating capacity. Things are basically normal, but the technical side was hit pretty badly and tech is still getting back on its feet. Back-up disks are fine; no actual data was lost. Some of the task systems/desktop machines are not running.

Sachin asked, what is the plan if this happens again?

Gordon—coming up with that plan is in process—the goal is to have solutions and a plan that can be taken to RCC (who had the bulk of the computers that were running and caused the meltdown) Solutions will need to include: ways to keep the room cool in case power shuts down, ways to shut down computers in ways that accommodate users so there is not loss of productivity or data loss, ways to work with RCC since the space is shared, etc.

Several faculty members voiced their opinions on what could be included in this plan for future storms—Tomasz mentioned that considering loss of productivity, data, and systems should be a priority. Peter asked if the university had a plan for off-site data management/back-up, since all agreed that backup of important files in an off-site location was a priority.

Action Item: the group agreed that it is important to get a plan in place that prioritizes: productivity, loss of data, and coolant alternatives. Once this plan is drafted and agreed upon, then it is important to go to RCC for buy-in and collaboration.

Gordon also mentioned the possibility of coming up with some sort of off-site website, that our website could direct folks to in case the original website is down. The group discussed whether this should be the Facebook site that is already in place, or another site altogether.

Gordon—David is cataloging all that has been damaged and getting the prices on everything that needs replacing to submit for insurance purposes. The group briefly discussed that in lieu of the carpet being replaced with more carpet, it should be replaced with linoleum or something that shows less wear than carpet does.

Statement of committees: David passed out ballots for faculty members to vote for a person to be a part of the executive committee at an appointment of two years. Gordon will be appointing all other members to one year terms.

Student Update: Gordon gave an update on student numbers. Currently the department has 41 graduate students and around 24 undergrads. The goal now is the next six months to get to 35 UGs. Gordon mentioned the collaboration with Greystone—an advertising company that will be working on creating a brand for our department. The idea behind this focus is to increase UG enrollment by helping us increase visibility at college fairs and start pipelines with high schools. The goal is to start small, with events at places like TCC and soon expand our scope statewide.

Tomasz mentioned the Seminole Discovery event in June—he said it was a good event and they spoke to some students, but that placement of tables/location where we were assigned could have improved those numbers, perhaps by paying a fee.

Action item: Karen will look into ways to become a sponsor for Seminole Discovery, and report back.

Other business: Gordon briefed the group on upcoming meetings. He had a SAC meeting today at 4:30 pm, is meeting with the dean and other chairs this Wednesday. The next faculty meeting will include a 5-10-minute presentation about commercialization by Matthew Dunlap. Faculty members expressed their concern about the efficacy of the commercialization ideas that would be proposed by Matthew Dunlap, but agreed that a short presentation with no guarantee of participation was best.

There was no other business, so the meeting adjourned.