

DSC Faculty Meeting

October 9, 2017

DSL 499 – 2:30 P.M.

Present: Beerli, Erlebacher, Huang, Plewa, Quaife, Shanbhag, Wang

Minutes from the September 18, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

1. The department picnic is Sunday, October 14th from 12 – 2 at the FSU Reservation. Please attend and bring a side dish.
2. Undergraduate numbers keep fluctuating around 31. Tomek mentioned we currently have 3 seniors. There was a request to provide a breakdown of UG students by year. It is unclear how many students truly enter our program (in terms of taking core courses) and what the rate of retention, how many actually graduate in our program. It would be helpful if we keep a running record of the undergraduate students.
3. The department Open House is tomorrow, Tuesday October 10 so advertise to students in your courses.
4. Hurricane Nate was basically a non-event in Tallahassee
5. ISC 4220C and ISC 4221C will be given new names but keep the same course numbers. Discrete will require Calc I and Continuous will require Cal II. It was mentioned that Continuous Methods course should require a numerical linear algebra course. This was the idea behind reshuffling those courses between spring and fall.
6. In advising students about NSF grants make certain that no more than 24 credits have been completed if the student is applying for the grant in his/her second year. This could have an impact on the summer enrollment following the fall and spring semesters of the first year.
7. Selecting a graduate advisor upon completion of the first semester in grad school is encouraged. Summer may need to be unsupported if the 24 credit rule stands for NSF.
8. The next two faculty meetings will be November 6, 2017 and December 4, 2017.

9. There will be a meeting with a representative of the Tallahassee Media Group on Thursday this week. Our advertising campaign has been active for about one month.
10. There has been a suggestion by an undergraduate student, Alex Ayoub, that the department create a new course designed to help undergraduates learn about resume building, encourage them to find internships, and help them actually apply for jobs. David Amwake and Michael McDonald can set up a web space to help students find opportunities. Gordon would like for at least one faculty member to work with David and Michael.
11. Peter Beerli requested a discussion of SRAD monies. About 30 – 40% would be taken off the top to support departmental goals. Then \$1 – 2 K would be available to each faculty to use in a way that benefits the department. The rest would be distributed among the remaining faculty with grants with a max cap. At this time, only four faculty have a percentage greater than 1%. Gordon said it is difficult to spend grant money for repairs. It was also suggested that the bulk of SRAD funds could be distributed through internal grants. Such grants would be evaluated by the Executive Committee with the final decision taken by the Chair. The Chair would not distribute any funds. For example, SRAD dollars could be saved over several years to provide matching funds for a to-be hired faculty. In either case, the Chair decides. It is a practice adopted in some other departments.
12. Gordon brought up the idea departmental retreats for either a half day or even an entire day. The departmental mission, goals, prospective collaborative research projects, and instructional effectiveness would be discussed. The consensus was to try a half day retreat perhaps after fall 2017 semester during finals week.
13. Gordon must update the Instructional Effectiveness portal by November 21st – regarding objectives/missions (UG/G/PhD/MS. Every objective must have something slightly changed.
14. Registration for spring 2018 opens next week on October 16th.
15. Hackathon is in February 2018.
16. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.