

Department of Dance Faculty Meeting

Thursday, October 3, 2019 ~ 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Meany Hall M-102

MINUTES

In attendance: Rachael Lincoln, Hannah Wiley, Juliet McMains, Alethea Alexander, Kelly Canaday, Brian Lawson, Jenifer Moreland

Absent: Jennifer Salk (sabbatical), Paul Moore, Peter Bracilano

Faculty Updates/Announcements

Juliet reminded everyone about the Welcome Party on Friday, Oct. 4th. She will welcome everyone and introduce Kelly, DSA and ADC at the event.

Juliet noted that her partner Cristian took Paul's class and could not stop talking about how great it is.

Alethea used two of the tools regarding consent in her classes and it was received well. Brian also used community norms exercises in his classes and things went well.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of the May 9, 2019 faculty meeting were approved as written. Minutes of the May 23, 2019 faculty meeting were approved with one edit. Minutes of the May 30, 2019 faculty meeting were approved as written. Minutes of the June 1, 2019 faculty meeting were approved with one edit. Minutes of the June 12, 2019 faculty meeting were approved as written.

Minutes of the September 23rd all faculty meeting and core faculty meetings were postponed to a future meeting.

Chair's Report

Hannah reported that the student election for an undergraduate representative to attend faculty meetings is pending.

Faculty Topics

- Exit Surveys (Lincoln/Canaday)

Faculty discussed the exit surveys from last spring. It was noted that the survey was administered as a particular moment in time, after a challenging year, which is reflected in the responses. Kelly noted that there were a number of similarities to responses from last year.

Faculty discussed the perception that students have of DSA being cliquy. While DSA is trying to be more inclusive, this is difficult to overcome as they are an elected committee. They are having open meetings and there is now a DSA representative on the Diversity committee. Faculty talked about making the Grad liaison aware of this in hopes of them supporting more equity student to student.

With the Diversity committee, there are more avenues for students to participate. Juliet invited the Diversity council to co-host the welcome party.

Faculty discussed stepping out of the process of DSA awarding scholarships and encourage them to create a more rigorous application process.

Further discussion about scholarships in general, led faculty to agree that they want the process to be more inclusive. Going forward, faculty will invite nominations from part-time faculty and grads for all scholarships and invite them to the faculty meeting when scholarships are discussed.

Juliet noted that there were a lot of comments in the survey about the physical facilities in Dance. The students really love having a lounge. Could the department help make it a nicer space? Maybe purchase new furniture?

Hannah wondered if there would be an opportunity to re-allocate space and move a student lounge to another location that is more private vs. the current setup in the basement. Faculty agreed to discuss this at a future meeting along with other space issues that will be coming up due to the anticipated new faculty hires next year.

Faculty agreed to remove the question about assistance from Administration from the survey. In the past, advising/admin was combined in one role. Kelly will remove Row 11, question K from the survey.

- MFA Surveys (McMains)

Juliet introduced the results of the MFA surveys which received responses from the graduating classes of 2012-2017. She noted that the responses are a great testament to how the program is designed and congratulated all the faculty for their work in making ours an excellent program. A proposal to increase mentorship of choreography during MFA concerts was offered.

Faculty noted that specific complaints about grad comp were for students who took the class before Rachael taught it.

Rachael would like to meet with the grads in the spring about supporting their work for the MFA concert.

Juliet noted that grads would like more opportunities to present their work off campus. As an MFA grad, Alethea didn't feel she had the time or energy to do this while in the program, but has found that it would be helpful to her now when she is applying for jobs. A portfolio is often requested. Hannah noted that this is not what the program is about. Rachael noted that grads will have two solid videos with work created on students when they complete the MFA. This is positive. Alethea countered that it might not have as much weight as you might think. Faculty discussed making a portfolio of professionally presented work outside of schoolwork or student work part of the MFA coursework. Maybe as part of the Dance in Higher Ed course?

Juliet noted that we're addressing the lack of racial diversity in faculty.

Faculty discussed issues regarding Dance in Higher Ed and also grad teaching methods. Juliet will pass this information along to Jen Salk and Kitty Daniels.

Rachael mentioned that if something structurally needs to change about grad comp, she's open to discussion. She loves the collaborative nature of the course because it's such a leveler for cohorts

who are so diverse in experience. Brian wondered if after fall quarter grads could bifurcate into teaching methods or comp? Faculty agreed to further discuss this at a later date. Alethea asked who does the comp class serve? Artists making work or teachers learning to teach comp?

- MFA Sub Protocol (Lawson)

On behalf of the grads, Brian Lawson asked for clarity about the sub protocol for grads. Faculty discussed this and confirmed that grads are not supposed to pay for subs. Should grads wish to be absent for either personal or professional reasons, they need to propose to faculty a plan to cover their classes while they are out. They are encouraged to do an exchange with someone – it could be another grad or a faculty member. If the grad is having difficulty covering their classes, please approach faculty to help brainstorm ideas.

Faculty discussed that sometimes the motivation for grads to take outside work is very practical. Developing skills and financial considerations are sometimes a significant motivator.

Hannah noted that some people have abused faculty's generosity in the past. There has to be a sense of equity needed. Not everyone has connections to work with prestigious companies or take financially lucrative contracts.

Faculty discussed the protocol for grads to take vacation. Per the ASE contract (Article 32, Section 2), grads should take vacation time off during academic quarter breaks or as otherwise mutually agreed to by the ASE and a supervisor.

- Diversity Committee Check-in (Alexander)

Alethea gave two updates to faculty about work being done by the Diversity committee. First, they were not excited about having a "survey party." Students think that faculty should set aside class time for this. Maybe it would make more sense to have a celebration party at the end of survey. Second, there is a desire to publicly recognize what happened last year and send a statement to all students. They can and probably will take this action if faculty doesn't.

Faculty discussed getting DSA and ADC together to have a truth telling space. They have felt animosity and division between these groups and want it to stop. Rachael mentioned that she would be talking to Jabali tomorrow and he might be a good mediator/facilitator for this type of meeting.

- Confirm Faculty Teaching Mentors for Grad Students (Lincoln)

Rachael has communicated the mentor assignments to faculty.

- Intro to the major course (McMains)

Juliet spoke to faculty about the intro to the major course that faculty decided to add to the curriculum last spring. She was slated to teach this in Winter quarter, but is unclear about what the scope and goals of the class are. Kelly noted that she's unclear who she would put in this class.

Faculty agreed to not offer this course at this time. It feels like an add on response to what happened last year and not well thought out. Faculty will re-visit this course when we look at the curriculum re-design.

Departmental Updates/Announcements

Nothing to report.

Agenda Items for future meetings

- Concert attendance policy