

Department of Dance Faculty Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2020
12:30–1:30 pm

Via Zoom: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/268912394>
Meeting ID: 268 912 394

MINUTES

In attendance: Peter Bracilano, Jenifer Moreland, Jennifer Salk, Juliet McMains, Alethea Alexander, Kelly Canaday, Hannah Wiley, Zakkir Rahman, Paul Moore, Rachael Lincoln

Faculty Updates/Announcements

Everyone in attendance checked in and let everyone know how they are managing with the quarantine.

Jen noted that she is taking class through the resilience lab that she is finding to be a great resource. She also reported that students in her Creative Process have been fantastic.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April 9, 2020 faculty meeting were approved as written.

Chair's Report

Jen reported that there is no news about fall or summer right now. She will update everyone as soon as she knows.

Jen thanked Juliet for all of the work she's doing on the summer and fall schedules, which have gone through numerous changes.

Catherine Cole recently asked about student credit hours for pre-online registration vs. post-online. We went from 1871 SCH before going online to 1579 after. This is remarkable considering how many classes we cancelled. Catherine offered congratulations for our resiliency.

Faculty Topics

- **Graduation (Canaday)**

Kelly reported on the results of the student survey. Students overwhelmingly want something in person. About ten students want an online event because they aren't sure if they will come back. Approximately ten students didn't respond. It looks like the best idea would be to do something online and also arrange something in person when the stay at home order is lifted.

Juliet suggested that we move forward with planning an online event. We should aim for a one-hour event max. We'll have to wait to decide on what an in-person event looks like until we know when campus will be open. Faculty agreed that the graduation event for Dance will be on June 12th at 3pm. Juliet will work with Kelly, Lisa and Paul regarding the set up.

Paul offered to help plan the online event. We can also extend an invite to next year's ceremony to those who want to come.

We decided to use Zoom for our small ceremony.

Kelly suggested that we do a series of Saturday workshops for the students once we are back in the studio, as a gift to them. She's heard that students are grieving that they've taken their last dance class. Maybe make a commitment now to do something even though we don't know when or what it's going to look like. Marte Madera and Yebel Gallegos are interested in doing and organizing among graduate students and faculty, Saturday classes for community and students so this could perhaps be something they take on.

Alethea agreed that this would be a great idea, to give the graduating class a space that would be theirs outside of our regularly scheduled classes.

- Discuss film offerings (Salk)
Jen noted that the video offerings from faculty could begin filming in May with Warren Woo.
- Concert Direction for the year (Salk)
Jen reported that Alana is excited to direct the UWDP concert. Jen will mentor her. Jen Salk will run the Ron K. Brown residency. Alethea pointed out that coordinating the press and PR is a big part of the task.

Faculty also discussed DMC and MFA, noting that there's a chance both Jen S and Rachael will be gone in the Spring. Jen could postpone her sabbatical if needed, if we end up being online in Autumn. Rachael offered to direct DMC.

Juliet asked if concert direction should be done by volunteer or on a rotating basis? If taken on, is there relief of teaching that quarter?

Faculty discussed that when one repeats each concert, you get better at it. They also noted that directing MFA is very different than DMC. Directing is expected service for the department.

Peter noted that having one person per year is easier from a production standpoint.

Juliet suggested that she could direct MFA or work with Rujeko on it.

Faculty will revisit this discussion at a later date.

- Who is choreographing? (Salk)
Ron K. Brown is scheduled to choreograph a piece as part of his Kawasaki residency. What happens this fall might impact that. Rachael and Alana will choreograph. Juliet probably won't. Hannah will not. Jen is thinking about it.
- Mid-quarter student feedback survey (Alexander)
Alethea initiated a discussion about mid-quarter feedback surveys. She asked is it useful to send out as they exist so far? It would be great to respond to feedback, but is wondering if it's cumbersome? What are the benefits of doing so? Benefits/advice?

Juliet has been using them for the past year. She's found that they are useful because it allows her to summarize what she's heard from the students and then let them know what you can respond to and what you can't. Makes students feel heard.

Hannah noted that in their class, it would be hard to be anonymous. Maybe it would be best to hand it out, but don't require a response. Make it optional.

Paul noted that it can be challenging when you get two astute but opposite opinions.

Jen is doing mid-point check-ins with her students. She wants to know if there is anything she can do to help students learn better.

Juliet suggested that the surveys allow you to get information that you might never get otherwise. Students appreciate that she responds to feedback.

Zakk suggested that the surveys are hard when the questions are very broad. He likes the idea of it being optional and anonymous. At the same time, he would prefer to give feedback to a professor directly.

Kelly said that she's heard from students is that dance classes are great, especially compared to other departments. Students might just have advice or might give a response that relates more to their own personal challenges. She suspects that feedback won't be personal but more content driven.

Departmental Updates/Announcements

Nothing to report.

Agenda Items for future meetings

Nothing to report.