



**PHILADELPHIA**  
UNIVERSITY

TO: Faculty, Staff and Academic Administrators  
FROM: Jessica L. Holt  
Manager of Faculty Affairs  
RE: November 17, 2015 Faculty Meeting Minutes

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Professor Howard called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. in the Kanbar Performance Space. The agenda was approved.

Each meeting is recorded and posted on the Provost's website  
[\[https://www.philau.edu/provost/meetings/\]](https://www.philau.edu/provost/meetings/) for any faculty not able to attend.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the October 20, 2015 Full Faculty Meeting**

Professor Howard asked for any corrections to the minutes of the October 20, 2015 faculty meeting; no corrections were made, thus, the minutes were approved.

### **Reports of the Provost / Dean of Faculty**

**Matt Baker**

Dr. Baker expressed his thanks to Madeleine Wilcox and Associate Provost E. Shepard-Rabadam for their efforts immediately following the bombing in Paris on November 13, 2015. Dr. Baker confirmed that all Philadelphia University students were accounted for. He did identify that this scenario is one which the University needs to consider in the future, including the mechanisms surrounding how students can report their status. In addition, Dr. Baker reviewed our service providers and the work we do with them.

Dr. Baker announced that International Education Week is November 16 – November 20, 2015. Invitations to the events were sent to the campus community. In addition, the Office of Student Engagement is holding an Unconference focused on #BlackLivesMatter and #AllLivesMatter on November 17, 2015 in the DEC Forum. An invitation was sent to the campus community and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Baker reminded attendees that the Application for Graduate Assistants is due to the Provost's Office November 23, 2015 for spring 2016, and April 18, 2016 for fall 2016. Additionally, the deadline for Course Release applications has passed, and are currently being reviewed.

Dr. Baker noted that there is ongoing discussion surrounding how to expand and discuss research opportunities, with Jeffrey Ashley assisting with this project. Course Releases went out and were received.

Congratulations to Professor D. Malhotra, who just completed his 100<sup>th</sup> publication and Professor Steven Dinero, who was awarded the Carter and Fran Pierce Term Chair for Liberal Arts.

Dr. Baker announced that the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) awarded the College of Architecture and the Built Design the 2015 NCARB Award to develop strategies for architectural textile composites for building envelopes. The award comes with a \$35,000 dollar grant. Collaborators on this project are associate professor Kihong Ku, adjunct architecture professor Christian

Jordan, associate professor of industrial design Lyn Godly, and the Harold Neuman Textile Design Chair and director of textile design Marcia Weiss.

Dr. Baker expressed his appreciation to Dana Pearlman for assisting with Adobe Connect during the Faculty Meetings.

Dr. Baker discussed First-Year Student Advising, explaining that annually Starfish and Statistics Survey metrics are used to understand how things are going for freshman. This year, there has been an increase in non-passing grades. He stated that he is looking to create teams of people and better ways to be proactive with the non-academic issues that are effecting students' performance. As an example, Dr. Baker noted that 58% of college institutions are experiencing the same challenges, which include an increased wait time for students to obtain counselling, increased depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. Dr. Baker asked that faculty continue to be proactive if they have any concerns about a student.

Questions were taken from the floor.

### **Faculty Voices - Open to Faculty**

Professor Howard opened the floor to faculty voices.

#### **a) Student Athletes – Value Added**

**Tim Moyer**

Professor N. Howard, in Coach Moyer's absence, led a discussion concerning the impact and role of student athletes in the classroom. Discussion ensued from the floor from various faculty regarding their experiences with student athletes. Dean Mark Govoni commented that the graduation rates for athletes far exceeds non-athletes. Student athletes have a 91% persistence rate, which is 25 points higher than average PhilaU student. Further discussion from the floor continued and faculty with any concerns should direct them to Athletic Coordinator Tom Shirley.

Professor C. Pastore commented that some junior faculty are concerned with having their names associated with Faculty Voices. Professor Howard remarked that anyone who doesn't want their name associated can reach out to her to present a topic, however, she would encourage junior faculty to become known to their peers and should feel safe to speak.

Discussion was taken from the floor.

### **Reports of Standing Committee:**

There were no reports presented.

### **Special Reports**

#### **Nexus Abroad**

**Phil Tiemeyer**

Associate Professor P. Tiemeyer discussed the goals and results from the most recent Nexus Abroad experience, and encouraged participation from colleagues. The common theme of movement in Europe from modernity to post-modernity was explored with each professor adding their own perspectives based on teaching discipline. Associate Professor Tiemeyer commented that it was rewarding to watch students learn but also how to navigate spaces. He then presented a video created by a student [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tv9rMSv9dv4>] from 2:55 to 5:13.

Associate Professor Tiemeyer encouraged future participation from faculty of all colleges. Professors D. Breiner, S. Dinero and S. Connelly will be participating in the next Nexus Abroad. President Spinelli requested that there be a published curriculum and development of metrics to help future participants understand the framework and create a knowledge inventory. Professor Howard noted that an update will be provided in the spring on the progress of the second group.

#### **UPC – Faculty Manual & Non-Start Dates**

**Beth Shepard-Rabadam**

Associate Provost Shepard-Rabadam presented revised language regarding review schedules for faculty with non-traditional start dates, namely those that start in January and in the summer. In response to a question from Dr. Spinelli, Associate Provost Shepard-Rabadam explained that the goal of this language is to add clarity to manage faculty expectations.

#### **Library Survey Report (SP15)**

**Karen Albert**

Karen Albert presented the results from the Library Services Report, conducted in spring 2015. The survey captured responses from both faculty and students. Overall, improvements have been made since the last survey conducted in 2013, with students being more satisfied with the Library website than the faculty. In addition, students indicated that their largest dissatisfaction is with WiFi and printing services. OIR has been working with the Library staff to make improvements.

#### **Middle States Update**

**Pam Thatcher**

Director Thatcher reported that the Middle States review is on schedule.

#### **Nexus Maximus**

**D. R. Widder**

Vice President Widder presented an update on Nexus Maximus, thanking those who participated and commented that there have been no negative comments by students. Comments were then taken from the floor. Executive Dean B. Klinkhammer expressed her excitement with the opportunities provided to students, and encouraged faculty to participate. She requested that the Provost's Office explore ways to involve adjunct faculty, which could include offering a small stipend. Executive Dean M. Dryer stated that alumni have also reached out to him with interest in participating. Vice President Widder stated that the opportunity to participate exists, and the goal is to develop ways Nexus Maximus can fit into each course so that it becomes a part of campus culture. A Steering Committee will be meeting soon to start the planning process. If anyone is interested in participating, they may contact him.

#### **Strategic Build – On-line**

**D. R. Widder**

Vice President Widder presented materials regarding PhilaU's online presence. Within the past three years there have been over 13 programs offered servicing 250 students. At this time, the focus is on transitioning from start-up to sustainability. PhilaU will be phasing out of its partnership with Post-University and increasing its relationship with Learning House. The University will also be outsourcing less as the institutional capabilities grow to provide services in-house, namely course and instructional design. PhilaU will still rely on partners for recruiting and marketing of students. Any questions can be directed to him or Mary Beth Kurilko.

#### **Unfinished Business**

#### **IP Policy Update – Committee Membership**

**Susan Frosten**

Not Presented

### **Faculty Workload – Committee Membership**

**Beth Shepard-Rabadam**

Not Presented

### **New Business**

#### **Updates to UPC section of Organization of Faculty Manual**

**Craig Griffen**

Professor Griffen provided a brief overview of the updates. Discussion was taken from the floor surrounding the removal of the language concerning the automatic review of negative decisions. Associate Provost Frosten explained that there were questions around how carefully counsel reviewed this language when it was originally created, as it does not provide consistency for all candidates in the review process. The updated language aims to resolve this issue. Professor Griffen made the motion, which was seconded by Professor F. Baseman.

#### **Adjunct Faculty Position on Faculty Council**

**Nancy Howard**

Professor Howard explained that the Faculty Council is the only committee comprised entirely of faculty. The proposal is to change the At-Large position to one for adjunct faculty. Professor Bower, speaking as a Nexus Advocate, commented that it this should pass the vote, a stipend should be considered for the adjunct faculty member in the position. Professor Howard assured Professor Howard that this has been discussed. Professor Howard made the motion, which was seconded by Professor Klemens.

Professor Howard reviewed the voting process and timeline, providing Monday, November 30, 2015 as the deadline for votes to be received and counted. She further explained that for this motion to pass 2/3 of all eligible faculty must support the proposal.

#### **Report of the President**

**Dr. Stephen Spinelli**

Dr. Spinelli remarked how grateful he is to be President of Philadelphia University and proud of such a respected faculty and productive student body that continues to advance the University.

Associate Professor K. Jones asked for clarification concerning the comments previously made regarding faculty offering online courses. Dr. Spinelli remarked that availability of courses will be made based on marketplace demands. Currently undergraduate and online student enrollment are the same, so this is something that is constantly monitored. Dr. Baker added that there are a number of factors that impact course availability, including if financial aid is available for online courses. While the potential for hybridization exists, until financial aid considerations are analyzed, the schedules will remain separate.

Assistant Professor C. White inquired after the status of salary increases. Dr. Spinelli commented that an email was send in September/October notifying faculty that there would be a bonus provided this year in lieu of an increase. He also assured the attendees that he continues to view appropriate compensation a priority.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Baker reminded attendees that the Retirement Reception for Marion Roydhouse, Dean Emeritus, Professor of History, and Founding Director Emeritus of the Center for Teaching Innovation and Nexus Learning will be held on November 30, 2015 in the Kanbar Performance Space. An invitation has already been sent to Faculty and Staff, and all are encouraged to attend.

Carla Mandell thanked everyone who responded to the Faculty Awards Dinner survey. There were a total of 96 responses, with 72% of respondents voting to keep the dinner in the spring and preferably on a weeknight.

Karen Albert reminded attendees of the Materials Library Opening Event on November 19, 2015. The invitation has already been emailed to the campus community, and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Mary Beth Kurilko expressed her thanks to Jeffrey Ashley, Jeffery Klemens, and Jeffrey Cepull for their efforts concerning online projects, especially Blackboard and the Technology workshop.

Barbara Kimmelman reminded attendees of the final Knowledge Exchange lecture of the semester by Associate Professor of Writing, Valerie Hanson, based on her recently published book, *Haptic Visions: Rhetorics of the Digital Image, Information, and Nanotechnology*, November 20, 2015 in the Spector Center. An invitation has already been sent to the campus community, and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Adjourned at 1:59 p.m.