

September 19, 2025 Psychology Advisory Board Meeting

The mission of the Advisory Board is to support and advocate on behalf of the Department of Psychology and to support the Department's achievement of its goals through Engagement, Leadership, and Philanthropy.

Meeting Location: Gainesville, FL at Reitz Union

In Attendance:

Board Members: Antonio E. Puente (Past President via Zoom), Amanda Balkhi (President), Martha Zlokovich (Secretary/President Elect), Peter Dodzik (Leadership Committee Chair), Chris Pitisci (Engagement Committee Chair), Dianne Allen (Philanthropy Committee Chair), Stephen Alli (via Zoom), Janette Berne (via Zoom), Eric Rudich, Angie Winn (via Zoom)

UF Representatives: Julie Graber (Department Chair), Jason Jasper (Advancement), Willie DeLeon (Department Vice Chair via Zoom), Meredith Palmberg (Advancement)

Future Meetings: Spring 2026 via Zoom (date in March or April TBD)

Engagement:

- **Engagement Committee:**

Presented Gator 100 request for internships letter online in order for the Board to edit during the meeting; next it goes to Advancement (we reviewed and edited during the Board process section of agenda).

Expect the committee will next address ideas that come out of experiential learning discussion at this meeting.

- **Board Discussion About Engagement:**

Acknowledged UF is no longer using Mentor Connect.

Board discussed some issues we have had making best use of Gator Network, including receiving emails to help us start our careers and lack of matches to anyone needing a mentor.

- **Board Mixer With New & International Graduate Students:**

Board met with first year and international graduate students the afternoon of September 18, 2025, in the Psychology building for snacks and discussion.

Amanda led conversation with the students about how they are adjusting to Gainesville, graduate study, and the department, as well as what they are

doing in their free time and their concerns or questions.

Leadership:

- **Department Chair's Update, University and College:**

Julie pointed out latest *Ytori* magazine has examples of experiential learning in psychology and a psychology student is featured on the cover.

New interim President, Dr. Landry, arrived on campus after being fully vetted by Board of Governors. He asked for challenges and vision for next three years from all departments. Julie said faculty, faculty, faculty! Board of Trustees asked him to focus on reducing the number of in interim roles.

New Interim Dean Dr. Kevin Ingersent was previously the Interim Associate Dean; he is from Physics.

Dr. Barb Zsembik is continuing as CLAS Associate Dean.

- **Department Chair's Update, Psychology Department:**

Consistently ranked top 5 in CLAS in research funding.

Tenure track faculty published a median of 5 peer-reviewed publications.

30% of Non-tenure track faculty published at least one article.

Majority of faculty publications included student co-authors.

Outstanding presence at APA – Awards presented to Taewon Kim, Ryan Duffy, Bonnie Moradi, Jesse Dallery; two faculty elected as Fellows; Hanna Vance and S. Elisha LePine won 2025 dissertation research awards (2 of only 10 awarded by APA annually).

New faculty – Dr. José Martínez in Social, Dr. Faris Kronfli in Behavior Analysis (had been visiting), Dr. Jamie Newland in Developmental (a UF graduate, now in a visiting position).

41 core faculty (including 11 non-tenure-track, 1 visiting position).

3 open tenure track position as fall starts; 1 search approved, 1 search tentatively approved.

External grant funding chaos has been a challenge to faculty hiring process.

Department has received less funding from grants over time, from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (\$106,716; \$102,436, \$84,780).

However, new awards are coming in – 5 faculty members received new grant awards since May, and 2 NIH grants that had been cancelled were reinstated this summer. However, closing and reinstating grants takes up lots of staff time.

Behavior Analysis had accreditation site visit this fall.

19 new graduate students, 4 international – 25% of all graduate students are international.

Concerned about State Department proposal to limit number of years for visas because doctorates in psychology usually take longer than proposed visa duration.

Graduate Educational Mission and Summer 2025 funding – 10 scholarships for half summer; 44% of all students had full summer support, 22% had half support, and 5% had an internship – so 66-71% had some level of summer support.

Undergraduate Educational Mission – Still an in-demand major (integrated, BCN, BA, tracks and UF Online).

CLAS has initiated discussions with chairs and advising officer staff about “over-enrolled majors”

Most options to limit the size of the major would have small impacts on psychology.

Academic Advising supports Julie’s request to add another full time staff person to advising in psychology.

Department use of funds:

\$122,150 in scholarships

\$102,942 graduate student funds for research/fellowships

\$68,000 travel funds to present research at conference (Goldman, Ring funds)

Two professorships – Thomas and Ring

\$28,000 in unrestricted department funds (whereas funds above come from restricted donations).

- **Experiential Learning Presentations:**

Taylor Stokes – Director of Beyond120 program in CLAS – she coordinates experiential learning (EL) opportunities within CLAS.

Within college are Experiential Learning Coordinators.

EL is well-supported by state Board of Governors and Dean.

Beyond120 program started about 2015 to help students get a job especially for majors with many career options, experience job tasks before starting job or grad school, expose them to career options they didn’t know existed, encourage them to reflect on their education and future jobs, set up excursions.

When we find alumni interested in providing internships, email Julie, Jason, and Christina Mattern – Partnership & Employer Engagement Specialist for working with employers to set up experiences.

Office also supports faculty in providing EL.

Talking about 2027 possibility of making EL required for all students

Quest 3 is to be 135 hours (3 credits), immersive experience; needs to have learning outcomes. quest.ufl.edu.

Brian Cahill – Faculty in psychology, Legal Psychology and talked about internships through legal system

Has 4 internships, started with Defender's Office in Gainesville, now just 2

Some with federal Public Defenders in Tallahassee for summer, said they would select 2 but usually pick 4 students; one issue is that students have to move to Tallahassee

Eric takes one remote intern for fall and spring, who is helping now with jury research, tech tests with mock jurors, watching jury research deliberations.

Kristy Johnson took on one intern and she chose to pay the intern.

Marina Klimenko – Faculty in psychology, teaches mostly online and developed a virtual exchange program. Students collaborate or work on projects with students in another country. Worked with Russian students until the war started, now Japan and Brazil. She's developing an exchange program to go to Kazakhstan.

Dominic Purcell – she had been advising for Psychology, but just started today as Assistant Director for Academic Integration at UF's Career Connections Center.

- **Leadership Committee:**

Amanda discussed progress on selection of first Hall of Fame alumni and creating videos.

Willi suggested reaching out to Graphic Design or CLAS Media staff for template for videos.

Display will include same information for all HoF honorees. There will be a powerpoint slide in hallway, and more information on the webpage.

HoF Task Force reviewed survey, met with Psychology Graduate Student Organization (PGSO) and created nomination form.

Leadership Committee may eventually take over finding nominees.

Starting working on potential new Board member list but still need to decide:

Coordination with the PGSO

Reaching out to nominees

Vetting process

Nominating process.

Dianne is working on the alumni video project so she might coordinate with HoF group when she comes across strong, alumni interested in being more involved.

Speakers/Mentors/UFPAB members – Lacie has an updated list of potential members – who could also be speakers or HoF members.

Resources for graduate students from APA-OE but what should the Leadership Committee's role be in disseminating this information? Amanda mentioned that Philanthropy reviewed the department's webpages and proposed updates to Julie.

Committee has had trouble getting beyond agreement from students that speakers would be a good idea. Julie suggested tapping into the existing area brown bag student discussions with faculty. Keep in mind PGSO leadership changes in summer.

Can we track resource use on website? From emails? No. (Windows 11 is in process of being instituted because MS is no longer supporting Windows 10, and website template will be launching soon).

Angie volunteered to come speak in person as she is fairly close in Orlando.

Will there be funding for speakers? Assume no (but see Dianne's Philanthropy report re future options).

- **Board Discussion about Leadership:**

Some people are not happy with how administrators across the country are addressing issue of indirect costs and how long it will take to recover; some universities losing 10 million, others closer to \$100 million.

Might mean we have to think of other ways to cover start-up costs for new faculty – all science faculty need research supported. Don't have good answers to that yet.

Loss of indirect costs affects departments differently across the institution.

The current paradigm for funding start-up costs for new faculty may not be one that can be continued.

In addition, universities and faculty at many universities are being pressured in many ways by current political climate.

Tony asked, is there a need to discuss with international students what behaviors might draw unwanted government attention, difficulties with leaving US to visit home and return, whether they should carry passport and visa copies?

- **Board Faculty Event:**

The Board had lunch with faculty to discuss grants and funding. Drs. Roberto Abreu (Counseling), Shanting Chen (Developmental), and Chris Podlesnik (Behavior Analysis) shared issues they have had with both applying for research grants and receiving funds and information about the status previously submitted or approved grants.

Philanthropy:

- **Philanthropy Committee:**

Met end of August to catch Dianne up with all documents and activities as she starts as chair.

Talked about having businesses sponsor speakers, especially if they are local.

But Advancement had asked the committee to focus on Giving Day and wide-spread outreach to alumni and donors – concerned with “donor fatigue” where repeated smaller asks undermine potential for a larger donation. Discussed whether that might have been a misunderstanding or how to proceed.

Decided she/we should send an email to Julie and Jason (department chair and PAB Advancement contact) about alumni who are willing to donate/engage.

Alumni, faculty, staff, and students can now submit news via the Dept homepage

Continuing to enroll alumni in donating.

Recurring: PAB’s annual focus on Giving Day

Reviewed strategic goal pipeline and discussed ideas for goals moving forward.

Diane has set up interview slots for alumni videos.

- **Advancement Updates:**

CLAS Advancement Update

Jason – CLAS has 14 people in Advancement

Including two new hires. Half of staff are Development Officers, half Engagement and Operations.

Students, Faculty, Department Support are three areas.

Ways to give – cash, securities, real estate, estate plans, IRA, life insurance, and more.

Helping 9 advisory boards in CLAS, and psychology’s PAB is very well-functioning.

Giving Day last year:

UF over \$6 million raised

UF top of top compared to other universities

PAB challenge if 150 donations and we got 184 – unlocking additional \$15,000 from the PAB

\$12,000 increase from year before.

How do we steward donors? Handwritten notes, PAB thank you videos

Giving Day 2026:

Glad to hear that PAB is interested in donations beyond Giving Day.

Leverage your network, use social media posts, collaborate with students especially if we know any directly benefiting from fundraising.

Life change (for donation recipient) is the most impactful fundraising message.

Julie suggested asking students for impact statements when they apply for grants or scholarships because it has been hard to obtain them after the fact.

Amanda asked if department can obtain student statements ahead of Giving Day, at least this year.

Advancement can send emails to students asking for a quick video.

Dianne mentioned making clear to students that alumni donated the funds for their awards as that educates them about what to expect when they become alumni and are asked to donate.

Amanda asked Jason to contact Board Members one-on-one how much they are willing to donate towards the match with primary goal to be 100% participation. What should be our match goal?

Amanda asked Jason to check with Meredith Palmberg if we should increase our goal(s) for 2026 Giving Day.

Tony suggested a goal for each of us to bring in one more donor – Amanda asked Tony send us a reminder to do so closer to Giving Day.

Does PAB want to make short video thank you's? Handwritten notes? Amanda suggested we do both. Jason said Emily will contact us about our videos, providing a prompt and time limit. Martha, Dianne, Angie, and Tony volunteered.

- **Advancement Structural Updates:**

Jason Jasper will work with the PAB going forward

Lacie Klann, Senior Director of Development, who had worked with the PAB before Jason, joined us for the Board dinner September 18 because Jason was attending a development event on campus.

Board Governance:

- **Upcoming Board Meetings:**

The Board proposed that the next PAB meeting be December or January via Zoom.

The Leadership Committee will conduct the annual Board Self-Assessment after the fall meeting.

We will discuss the results at the Spring 2026 meeting.

The following spring PAB meeting will be in-person March or April 2026, with a Board bonding activity to be planned prior to the meeting.

The Board discussed whether best timing of PAB pre-Board meeting activities such as events with psychology faculty and/or students or board bonding excursions, given limited Board member attendance at the student get-together Thursday. The Board recognized that

while moving the activity closer to 5:00 pm would allow for more Board members to attend; however, 4:00 pm encourages more student involvement. The Board agreed to attempt to schedule later start times when they work for the students.

Officers will change over for this meeting.

After self-nominations prior to the meeting, the Department Chair will appoint a President-Elect.

The Board will review all committees' progress and receive a departmental update.

- **Current Full Board Member List by Term:**

Fall 2022 – December 31, 2025 Term: Meredith Wikstrom

Spring 2023 – June 30, 2026 Term: Janette Berne, Peter Dodzik

Fall 2023 – December 2026 Term: Dianne Allen, Kristy Johnson

Fall 2024 – December 30, 2027 Term: Stephen Alli, Amanda Balkhi*, Matt Michaels, Patricia Thomas Shutt*#

Spring 2025 – December 31, 2028 Term: Eric Rudich, Antonio E. Puente*, Chris Pitisci*, Angie Winn, Martha Zlokovich*

* Denotes members serving second term

+ Denotes members serving third term

Board approved leave of absence September 2024

- **Current Committee Assignments:**

Engagement - Chris Pitisci (Chair), Stephen Alli, Kristy Johnson, Matt Michaels, Martha Zlokovich

Leadership - Peter Dodzik (Chair), Janette Berne, Eric Rudich, Angie Winn, Antonio Puente

Philanthropy - Dianne Allen (Chair), Amanda Balkhi, Meredith Wikstrom