

Spring 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: Reitz Union, University of Florida

In Attendance (*Indicates Attendance via Zoom):

Board Members: Amanda Balkhi (President), Antonio E. Puente* (Past President), Peter Dodzik (Leadership Committee Chair), Janette Berne, Meredith Wikstrom (Philanthropy Committee Chair), Chris Pitisci (Engagement Committee Chair), Kristy Johnson*, Dianne Allen, Matt Michaels, Stephen Alli, Eric Rudich

Potential Board Members in Attendance: Nancy Wall*, Angie Winn

UF Representatives: Julia Graber (Department Chair), Lacie Klann (Advancement), Willie DeLeon (Department Vice Chair), Meredith Palmberg (Advancement), Jason Jasper (Advancement)

Future Meetings: To Be Determined

Engagement:

- **Engagement Committee**
 - Historical goals include undergraduate engagement (Gator Network); Alumni Video Project; Letters to new and graduating students.
 - Current focus is extracting psychology graduates from Gator100 list and sharing with them a letter about establishing internships with their businesses. Committee will finalize a letter then send to Julia and Lacie for approval and dissemination.
 - To re-energize the alumni video project, Dianne volunteered her podcasting set-up and agreed to interview alumni,
 - reducing the burden of alumni writing their own script.
 - Stephen will serve as committee liaison to Dianne to facilitate the project.
 - While together in person, the Board wrote notes of encouragement to graduate students who are soon to graduate.
- **Board Discussion of Engagement Initiatives**
 - Willy discussed the Wall of Fame, which will be situated in a central location in the psychology building.
 - Nomination form and a list of those currently nominated was reviewed.
 - Task force will partner with the Psychology Graduate Student Organization (PGSO) to rate the 11 nominees and select the finalists. Following that,

consent for inclusion from the nominees will be requested and the display finalized.

- *Graduate Student Presentations*
 - At lunch, the Board was joined by faculty member Dr. Brian Odegaard, a long-standing psychology philanthropist, Dr. Trish Ring, and four students whose research has been supported by her generosity.
 - The students presented on a variety of research projects, including what processes in social psychology underlie inaction in labor union formation, how neuroimaging and AI can inform our knowledge of representational spaces and discrimination of visual images, how online social justice oriented social support interventions can support families in their target language, and how AI technologies can be used to support mental health and mental health training.

Leadership:

- *Department Chair's Update - Julia Graber*
 - Julia was renewed as Department Chair.
 - In times of uncertainty, the department seems to be moving forward and doing well.
 - 17% of UF undergrads are in Psychology, showing it is an in-demand major.
 - US News and World report ranked the online psychology program #3 in the country.
 - We are enjoying a thriving national reputation and are recognized frequently by the APA, NIH, and lay publications like *Psychology Today*.
 - The department is recognized internationally as well with awards and scholarships
 - solid research (5 peer reviewed publications/year median of tenured faculty);
 - Top 5 in CLAS for research dollars
 - However, the department has been impacted by federal funding changes (one grant defunded) and the NIH funding pause (numerous grants not yet reviewed).
 - Two new faculty members, Dr. Jose Martinez (Assistant Professor) and long term visiting professor Dr. Faris Kronfli was converted to regular instructional faculty.
 - Expect two unfilled faculty positions in the Fall (Dr. Shepherd retired; Another faculty member is leaving)
 - New grad students - a bit lower number than expected, wanted 23 got 19; current grad students are choosing to graduate later than usual.
 - Program updates:
 - Expect Counseling program go through re-accreditation in 2026
 - BA area working on future accreditation
 - Department is evaluating potential future terminal masters program.
 - Department as a whole is thinking about what additional opportunities or skills graduate students can be exposed to during

grad school to make potential placements after grad school more flexible. For example, Dr. Gravina's group has been successful with developing organizational partnership internships for her graduate students.

- Comparatively speaking, UF is doing well when compared to US universities. Others may be facing hiring freezes or student freezes, but that doesn't seem to be the case with UF - especially with undergraduate admissions.
- Fund use: Department delivered \$151,000 in annual awards/scholarships including two 12 month dissertation fellowships, \$69,000 in travel awards (92 individual awards) **to students**, and two professorships.
- *Leadership Committee*
 - Will formally take over new member onboarding including bios, videos, and collaborating with IT.
 - Talked to PGSO about potential speakers and mentors, could have PAB members, grad students who want info on post docs. Willie recommends speakers potentially work with the 1 year graduate SPS (Introductory Seminar) class as a standing meeting time for graduate students.
 - Leadership Committee will serve as standing representation of the Board on the Hall of Fame project, in concert with PGSO and Department faculty, and will facilitate the management of deadlines, nominee calls and considerations, and other tasks as needed to assist the Department; Department will oversee final approval.
 - Leadership Committee discussed need to clarify lines between Leadership and Engagement Committees.
 - Leadership Committee proposed four possible action items addressing what is missing for students.
- *Board Discussion about Leadership*
 - Board members expressed significant concern about the potential impact of accreditation changes and requirements and encouraged the Chair to evaluate these potential impacts moving forward.
 - Leadership Committee discussed with the Board opportunities for additional travel funds for graduate students. Willie will talk to grad student advisor (Dr. Devine) and get back to the Leadership Committee about existing process for disseminating travel funds.
 - Pete presented results of most recent Board Self Assessment Survey, focusing on 3 questions with average ratings below 4.5.
 - Pete then talked about question #13 on the Board Self-Assessment survey, "I remain current on trends affecting UF Department of Psychology."
 - The Board discussed whether this item was confusing and if it should stay or be removed. The question could mean we stay current in our own fields because this board is diverse. We represent law, academics, business, behavioral health, mental health, consulting. Leadership Committee will discuss further.

- *Faculty Presentation*
 - Dr. Nicholas Coles presented to the Board regarding Big Science research and his current line of research within the Social Science Collaboratory Lab within the Department. Dr. Coles discussed with the Board ways to apply Big Science approaches across disciplines and strategies for working across multinational teams. Dr. Coles also shared his experience with the Virtual Experience Research Accelerator and the Emotion Physiology and Experience Collaboration.

Philanthropy:

- *Philanthropy Committee*
 - Chair change from Meredith to Dianne effective this meeting.
 - Website updates are live with the exception of the Giving page templates from CLAS that psychology is still working on.
 - Giving Day “Why I give” statements were effective but want to build more impact or beneficiary statements about giving for next year.
- *Advancement Updates*
 - Lacie Klan reviewed Gator Nation Giving Day
 - CLAS was number 2 university-wide in dollars raised, gifts received and number of donors
 - Psychology Department goal was 150 gifts, we obtained 184 gifts with 168 unique donors.
 - Psychology raised \$531,314 - a net increase of \$10,217 from the previous giving day.
- *Advancement structural updates*
 - University staffing updates: there were new hires in CLAS advancement that will allow for an increase in touch points to alumni across the US. These new hires will be sitting in with Department heads, including Julia, to learn about the unique needs across CLAS. The university presidential search is ongoing with an announcement expected following graduation. The CLAS Dean search has had a recent status change and leadership by an interim dean is expected through the immediate future.

Board Governance:

- *Leadership Changes Within the Board*
- After a short discussion, the board voted to approve Dr. Nancy Wall and Dr. Angie Winn as new members.
 - Formal invitations to join the board will be sent by Lacie and Leadership will conduct their onboarding.
- Committee assignments were discussed at length. Eric Rudich and new member Angie Winn will join the Leadership Committee effective immediately. Nancy Wall will join the Philanthropy Committee.

- *Board Member Pipeline*
- Lacie Klan reviewed the Board membership pipeline and took recommendations for new individuals to recruit. The Board requested potential members that represented ABA, teaching faculty, and a variety of careers outside psychology. The Board also requested that advancement strive to recruit members that resemble the current student body of the Department. Leadership Committee reviewed current active members of PAB and target of 15, with various careers well represented.
- Leadership Committee Proposed they meet with new PAB members to give overview of board policies, structure, purpose and gather bio data for IT to build webpage and video.
- The Board proposed the following future meeting agenda:
 - Summer Digital Meeting - The Board will review committee progress and initiatives including the Hall of Fame. The Board will receive a Departmental Update.
 - Fall 2025 Meeting - In Person Meeting - The Board requests that an in person activity be planned prior to the meeting, potentially a mixer with Clinical Psychology faculty to promote cross pollination of ideas or another student lightning talk event. The Board will receive a Departmental and Advancement update, discuss currently committee and task force progress, and vote on any potential new members. The Board requests a dedicated time block during this meeting with a graduate student, an undergraduate student, and the undergraduate advisor to discuss issues facing students and how the board can help.
 - Spring 2026 - In Person Meeting - The Board will review committee progress and receive a Departmental update. Following Board nominations prior to the meeting, the Department Chair will appointment a President-Elect.
- Current Full Board Member List by Term:
 - Amanda Balkhi
 - Terms 1-2, Spring 2021-Spring, 2025
 - President Spring Meeting 2024-conclusion of Spring 2026 meeting
 - Past President, conclusion of 2026 meeting-conclusion of Spring 2028 meeting
 - Antonio E. Puente
 - Terms 1-2, Spring 2021-Spring, 2025
 - President, Terms 1-2, Spring 2021-conclusion of Spring, 2025 meeting
 - Past President, July 1, 2024-conclusion of Spring 2026 meeting
 - Martha Zlokovich,
 - Terms 1-2, Spring 2021-Spring, 2025

- President, conclusion of Spring 2026 meeting-conclusion of Spring 2028 meeting
- Past President, conclusion of Spring 2028 meeting-conclusion of Spring 2029 meeting
- Chris Pitisci
 - Terms 1-2, Spring 2021-Spring 2025
- Meredith Wikstrom
 - Term 1, Fall 2022-Spring, 2025
- Janette Berne & Peter Dodzik
 - Term 1, Spring 2023-Spring, 2025
- Kristy Johnson & Dianne Allen
 - Term 1, Fall 2023-Spring, 2026
- Stephen Alli & Matt Michaels
 - Term 1, Fall 2025-Fall, 2027
- Matt Michaels
 - Term 1, Fall 2025-Fall, 2027
- Eric Rudich
 - Term 1, Spring 2025 - Spring 2027

* All Officers shall serve a two-year term until their successors are appointed by the Department Chair. Members-at-Large may be appointed at the discretion of the Department Chair to serve two consecutive terms. (PAB Bylaws, Article V Officers of the Board, 3).

** The Department Chair's appointments to the President-Elect and any Members-at-Large roles should take place at the Spring meeting of the Psychology Advisory Board. At the conclusion of the Spring meeting, the incoming President-Elect shall assume the position, while the previous President-Elect ascends to the President position. The previous President shall then assume the role of Past-President (PAB Bylaws, Article V Officers of the Board, 4).

***Board members may serve three consecutive terms at the discretion of the Department Chair. A hiatus of one year is required following the third term before possible reappointment to the board (PAB Bylaws, Article II Membership, 2.a).

- Current Committee Assignments:
 - Engagement – Chris Pitisci, (Chair), Kristy Johnson, Stephen Alli, Matt Michaels, Martha Zlokovich
 - Leadership – Peter Dodzik (Chair), Janette Berne, Antonio Puente, Eric Rudich, Angie Winn
 - Philanthropy – Dianne Allen (Chair), Meredith Wikstrom, Amanda Balkhi

