

July 15, 2026 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: Zoom

In Attendance: *Board Members:* Martha Zlokovich (President), Amanda Balkhi (Past-President), Janette Berne, Meredith Wikstrom, Chris Pitisci, Kristy Johnson, Angie Winn, Matt Michaels (Engagement Committee Chair), Stephen Alli, Eric Rudich

Potential Board Members in Attendance: None

UF Representatives: Julia Graber (Department Chair), Lacie Klann (Advancement), Iser DeLeon (Department Vice Chair), Kaylee August (Advancement), Kyle Musser (Advancement)

Future Meetings: Fall 2026 (In Person) Dates to be Determined

Engagement:

- *Engagement Committee - Matt Michaels & Chris Pitisci*
 - Committee Chair has transitioned to Matt Michaels
 - Committee wants to assist with internship opportunities and will follow up with Julia on how to assist in promoting these opportunities on the website to recruit business owners and students.
 - Potentially writing up a one page information sheet for business owners on how to replicate the model that Kristy, Matt, and Eric have been able to create
- *Board Discussion of Engagement Initiatives*
 - Experiential learning through the micro-experience model was discussed and Julia shared how Dr. Kerr is working on establishing an experience for students.
- *Alumni Video Project - Amanda Balkhi*
 - Did outreach to a few alumni; One working to schedule with Dianne for filming

Leadership:

- *Department Chair Update - Julia Graber*
 - University Leadership Updates

- New [University President](#) Installed
- Search for Permanent CLAS dean has been launched
- Department Updates
 - Department Hiring
 - Part time IT person has been hired to help streamline the website, Department Newsletter, and social media.
 - Added a fiscal admin staff member to the Department.
 - Still waiting for approval on an additional advising staff member
 - Filled two tenure track positions - Behavioral Neuroscientist and Social Psychologist with work in Social Neuroscience, large data models, and AI
 - Clinical Assistant Professor hired into the Counseling Program
 - Potential additional instructional faculty member coming in Fall 2027 as a spousal hire
 - Two additional instructional faculty spots opened by the University and filled by recent UF graduates
 - Department morale is positive regarding recent hires and leadership installation
- Department Needs or Areas to explore
 - Are there ways to integrate staff, faculty, or students to work alongside the board to remove the bottle neck of Julia/Willie?
 - Often initial outreach to faculty falls short because of lack of faculty or student sponsor of the idea and this may be helpful to address this
 - Could provide more direct feedback on departmental needs
- *Leadership Committee - Janette Berne*
 - Networking Potential Speakers
 - Undergrad survey had 26 student responders about interest in speakers (Spring) - Interested in Forensic Psychology, Neuropsychology, and Graduate School as main topics of interest
 - Potential ideas could be asking board members to volunteer to present or using existing resources from SEPA (or when near enough to Gainesville, EPA or SWPA) or Psi Chi
 - May be more helpful to survey students at an event rather than via email
 - Angie suggests potentially an outside Disney HR speaker she knows (though not a UF graduate)
 - Faculty request speaker to present on ethics in clinical practice and ethics in research
 - Julia believes this is a specific need for IRB/Research specific information as the previous speaker in this topic has retired. Students pursuing clinical work have a dedicated clinical ethics course.
 - Two candidates for potential board positions had been contacted but not able to participate at this time; Working with Advancement for other

candidates

- *Hall of Fame Task Force - Iser De Leon*
 - Met with IT and CLAS resources to discuss the Hall of Fame. The Department has decided to pursue a digital Hall of Fame first and ensure accessibility prior to moving forward with a physical display monitor.
 - Presented with usable templates from CLAS
 - Shared the information with CLAS resources and expect to receive the private version of the website within the next two weeks for review and approval before going live.

Philanthropy:

- *Philanthropy Committee - Amanda Balkhi*
 - Last initiative was Giving Day - Expects more activity around Giving Day 2027 following the Fall meeting
- *Advancement Updates - Lacie Klann & Kyle Musser*
 - Membership Pipeline
 - Please update Lacie and Kyle with prospective members or folks who want to get involved. This can especially be important if the person is engaged with multiple departments across the University.
 - Two new contacts that Advancement is connecting with
 - Introduced New Advancement Liaison Kyle Musser
 - Based out of Jacksonville and has been with UF for a year following work at University of North Florida
 - Works with the Biology Department as well

Board Governance:

- *Fall Meeting Brainstorming and Planning*
 - Student Activity for the Fall in Person Meeting
 - Panel of Board Members Speaking on their careers (30-40 mins) followed by open Q & A/Social (1 hour)
 - Providing a QR code emailed to professors to promote board events
 - Students present their research
 - Creating a Faculty, student, or staff liaison for the board
 - Potentially inviting stakeholders into a committee meeting
 - Potentially inviting students to apply to be involved
 - Potential Agenda Items
 - Leadership Committee role discussion (Should they be searching for board members or is Advancement okay working alone? How can Leadership Committee be more involved?) Requested this be on next agenda.
 - CLAS Communication/Social Media/Giving Day Socials - Discussed messaging and accessibility and how to make sure our materials are

meet new accessibility requirements and we have them as early as possible.

- **Board Leadership Changes**
 - Matt Michaels is now Committee Chair for the Engagement Committee.
 - The Leadership Committee will need to choose a new Committee chair now that Pete Dodzik is President-Elect.
- The Board proposed the following future meeting agenda:
 - Fall On Campus Meeting- In Person Meeting - The board will review committee, departmental, and advancement updates. The board will also discuss the need to have Leadership Committee involved in new member recruitment, Giving Day social media strategies that align with Department goals and requirements for accessibility, and other agenda items as requested by board members.

The Board suggests that immediately prior to the next in person meeting a student activity that includes a panel of interested Board members discussing careers with an open Q & A for students.

- Winter Meeting - Zoom - The board will review committee, departmental, and advancement updates.
 - Spring 2028 - In Person Meeting - The Board will review committee progress and receive a Departmental update. The Department Chair will appoint a President-Elect.
- Current Full Board Member List by Term:
 - Fall 2023 - Fall 2026 Term: Kristy Johnson, Dianne Allen
 - Fall 2024 - Fall 2027 Term: Amanda Balkhi*
 - Spring 2025 - Spring 2028 Term: Antonio E. Puente*, Martha Zlokovich*, Chris Pitisci*, Eric Rudich
 - Fall 2025 - Fall 2028 Term: Meredith Wikstrom*, Stephen Alli, Matt Michaels
 - Spring 2026 - Spring 2029 Term: Janette Berne*, Peter Dodzik*

* Denotes members serving second term
+ Denotes members serving third term

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