

June 21, 2023 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: Antonio E. Puente (Board Chair), Chris Pitisci, Fredrick L. Coolidge, Amanda Balkhi (Board Secretary), Martha Zlokovich, Meredith Wikstrom, Julia Graber (Department Chair), Janette Berne, Patricia Shutt, Peter Dodzik, Lacie Klann (Advancement)

Future Meetings: Fall 2023 (In-Person) October 4-5, 2023; Winter 2023 (Zoom) TBD

Engagement:

- *MentorConnect Work Group:* Dr. Balkhi shared an update regarding MentorConnect's anticipated number of mentorship requests..Board Members should expect a reduced number of mentorship requests during the summer and should expect requests to increase in the fall.
- *Alumni Outreach Work Group:* Lacie Klann and Chris Pitisci shared that the Alumni Outreach Workgroup has received three completed alumni lists - from Amanda Balkhi, Martha Zlokovich, and Meredith Wikstrom. After consultation with the university's strategic engagement team, the Outreach Work Group will plan to send a segmented email with a personalized "From" name and embedded contact emails to each of these lists near Labor Day 2023. Labor Day was chosen given its historic correlation with high response rates.

The Work Group encouraged all other board members who have not completed their lists to turn them in as soon as possible so they can also be included.

- *Alumni Video Stories Work Group:* During strategic planning, the Board emphasized the importance of continuing to recruit alumni stories from a wide range of fields and potential careers. Dr. Balkhi will reach out to some targeted alumni from her video list in the coming months to ensure new videos are posted in the Fall. The Department's new Social Psychology faculty, Dr. Rodrigez, will also be approached for an Alumni Video.
- Dr. Zlokovich shared that there are a number of graduate student funding possibilities available to graduate students in the Department, and the requirements for graduate members of Psi Chi. Given the Department's historically limited engagement with Psi Chi at the graduate level, the Board suggested this information be shared with students.

Leadership:

- Dr. Graber provided a departmental update.
 - *Undergraduate Update:* 2023 Giving Day donations totaled \$3,446.00 which the Department has used towards funding two undergraduate centered events. Any remaining funds will be distributed to similar student event assistance.

The first was a MentorConnect geared speed mentoring event with the Advisory Board and interested students (March 30, 2023). This event was enthusiastically received by students.

The second event provided financial support of refreshments and research prizes for undergraduate students during the [Department's Undergraduate Research Forum](#). The Department plans to share these funding instances and the winners of the Undergraduate Research Forum within its Spring Alumni Newsletter.

- *Graduate Student Update:* The Department's [Annual Award Ceremony](#) celebrated numerous current graduate students. The Department has been sharing these awards on its social media accounts and will include these award winners in its Spring Alumni Newsletter.

Regarding new student recruitment and retention, the Department planned to admit 22 students for the 2023–2024 academic year. In pursuit of this, 27 offers were made to interested students.

Eighteen students were successfully recruited, including six international students, four students who identify as White/Latine, and one student who identifies as Black. Fifteen of the eighteen admitted students are female.

While demographically the cohort resembles the Department's previous cohorts, the high rate of offer decline from students was unexpected. Of the nine students who declined the offer of admission, 77% self-identified as belonging to an underserved minority group or as an international student. Anecdotally, the current political climate of the state of Florida was often stated as a reason for concern.

- *Faculty Update:* For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Department aimed to hire an additional five faculty to support its ongoing instructional, research, and training needs. The open positions included two within the Counseling area, one with an open area distinction, and two instructional faculty positions. The Department was left with one unfilled position within the Counseling area which it intends to recruit for in Fall 2023. Anecdotally, of the potential

faculty recruited for this position, those who declined often cited the political and social climate of the State of Florida as a reason for not accepting the position.

The Department successfully hired four faculty members, detailed below. The Board will welcome each new faculty member with a letter that Dr. Graber will print on behalf of the Board.

- Taweon Kim, Ph.D. will join the Department as a Counseling Assistant Professor.
 - Lindsey Rodriguez, Ph.D. will join the Department as a Psychology Associate Professor in the Social Psychology area.
 - Laura Shambaugh, Ph.D. will join the Department as an Applied/Legal Psychology Assistant Instructional Professor.
 - W. Matt Friedl, Ph.D. will join the Department as a Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience Assistant Instructional Professor.
- Dr. Puente shared with the Board APA priorities regarding DEI initiatives. Dr. Graber was encouraged to consider educational benefits in addition to accreditation requirements during the Department's transition to new statewide DEI standards.

Philanthropy:

- The Board reviewed the impact of the Giving Day monies raised in the context of Dr. Graber's Departmental Review.

Board Governance:

- The Board engaged in a follow up strategic planning session led by Meredith Wilkstrom. Within this planning, the Board reviewed and assigned to committee the goals elicited during the last in-person Board meeting. Prior to the next meeting, the Board will share their preferences for committee assignments.
- *Board Member Recruitment:* The Board welcomed [Peter Dodzik, Psy.D.](#) as a visitor to the meeting. Dr. Dodzik is an undergraduate alumnus of the Psychology Department (1994) and a pediatric neuropsychologist based in Chicago. Following the meeting, the Board voted to formally invite Dr. Dodzik to the Board.

The Board discussed ongoing member recruitment. Dr. Coolidge volunteered to meet with Diane Allen, a Strategic Coach and Mentor, who is in Stage Four of Board Member recruitment. Pending this meeting, it is anticipated that Dr. Allen will be invited to Zoom into a component of the next Board Meeting.

Lacie Klann encouraged all Board members to reference the Board's Wish List for new members when referring potential candidates as the Board moves towards its 15-20 member goal.

- The Board began to set the agenda for the upcoming in-person meeting.
 - Fall 2023 - In Person Meeting - The board will review progress within Engagement, Leadership, and Philanthropy and receive a Departmental update. The Board will follow up regarding faculty Intellectual Property (IP) training, committee assignments, leadership/succession planning and ongoing curriculum changes to meet state compliance. The Board will also discuss ways to broaden the Department's relationship with other Psychology Departments within the University (e.g. Clinical Psychology). The Board will revisit plans for Giving Day 2024 and participate in a working lunch with selected faculty.

Immediately prior to the Board Meeting, the Board suggests an event that invites retired UF faculty back on campus to interact with the Department's students. If feasible, advancement will coordinate a listening session with a prolific past donor within Psychology.

- Current Full Board Member List by Term:
 - Fall 2021 - Fall 2024 Term: Antonio E. Puente, Chris Pitisci, Amanda Balkhi, Martha Zlokovich, Patricia Thomas Shutt, Frederick L. Coolidge
 - Fall 2022 - Fall 2025 Term: Meredith Wikstrom
 - Spring 2023 - Spring 2026 Term: Janette Berne, Peter Dodzik