

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.

July 10, 2025, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Psychology Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Location: via Zoom

In Attendance:

Board Members: Antonio E. Puente (Past President), Amanda Balkhi (President), Martha Zlokovich (Secretary/President Elect), (Tony filled in for Pete, Leadership Committee Chair), Chris Pitisci (Engagement Committee Chair), Dianne Allen (Philanthropy Committee Chair), Kristy Johnson, Matt Michaels, Angie Winn, Meredith Wikstrom

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

Future Meetings: Fall 2025 on campus - To Be Determined

Engagement:

- Engagement Committee Update - Chris
 - Since last committee meeting, narrowed focus to reach out to alumni, engaging them to continue talking about what we are doing for psychology department within this board, to join Gator Network, to make alumni video
 - Composed letters for alumni, graduating seniors, Gator 100 alumni, but have not finalized and gotten approval from Board yet in order to have Foundation send them
 - May need to expand list because only 25 psych major names in Gator 100 - other schools are reaching out to many already
 - Lacie mentioned we could look at 40 under 40 list
- Hall of Fame Task Force - Amanda
 - Amanda reported that the task force met yesterday to go through nominees;
 - Had 12 individuals to review, each rater assigned half of cohort
 - Student desired characteristics - scholarly activity, social advocacy, leadership, etc. Willie - pilot year so working out how the process should go.
 - Need to consider going forward - how to get nominations from a broader range of individuals.
 - Nomination form was a bit cumbersome
 - especially regarding characteristics students valued.
 - form incorporated all characteristics, so the committee is rethinking asking which characteristics are most important to individuals.
 - Two members of graduate student group participated and they felt it was a manageable process and meaningful
 - Lacie asked, will pipeline support this many nominees every year? Could limit annual number so there are some to recognize every year.

- Willie mentioned there would be a video display and only two awardees rotating on it would be odd, but makes sense to adopt the pipeline model.
 - They are retaining the other four to reconsider going forward.
- Amanda - display should be mirrored on website as well
- Amanda described nominees' backgrounds. Final list is not yet public; we should soon recognize them in the building.
 - Donald Dewsbury
 - Michele Elliott
 - Brian Iwata
 - Dorothy Dobbins Nevil
 - Antonio Puente
 - Trish Ring
 - Samuel Sears
 - Betty Stewart-Fullwood
- Alumni Video Project - Dianne & Stephen
 - Dianne will send links for people to sign up to record alumni videos with her guidance. Given her experience with interviewing, Dianne will help to coach interested alumni and help them be more comfortable if possible. Stephen will serve as the Engagement Committee Liason and help recruit alumni to make videos when possible.

Leadership:

- Department Chair's Update - Julia
 - Mary Watt had been clear she only wanted to be dean for a year; search this year was upended unexpectedly, so then had to look for an interim dean
 - Interim Dean is Kevin Ingersent, former Chair of Physics and had been serving as Interim Associate Dean of Research
 - Has been a great sounding board for Julia in the past; is very attuned to finance issues, and has been at UF a long time
 - She is not aware if he has a firm deadline for serving; not sure when the dean position will be filled
 - Expecting the Dean to authorize psychology faculty searches; psychology will be starting fall with three open tenure track positions
 - He is not likely to continue past interim status
 - Current Interim President agreed to be in place through end of July-early August
 - Expecting an Interim President announcement in July
 - To Julia's knowledge, state budgets remain consistent; 90,000 applications to UF and no problem filling seats in psychology suggest continued demand despite challenges facing higher education.
 - Considered an "over-enrolled major" so need to be strategic about managing enrollment challenges
 - Would like to add an advisor in the psychology but Julia hasn't yet asked the Dean about that
 - Have felt impact of federal ending of grants especially if there was focus on a marginalized group
 - Had a graduate student who was funded by a diversity supplement, which was cut, but the college put her on a summer research

- assistantship to ensure she can continue her education uninterrupted
 - Other students impacted by the grants of their advisor being cancelled were covered with funding from other CLAS sources
 - Expected grants from NIH: people had grants help up during review, funding decisions delayed, but some are coming through but still haven't gotten documentation that is the case; looks like a lawsuit resulted in reinstating some grants
 - Currently, what will happen to the reduced funding allocated towards infrastructure and staff within federal grants is a major concern. This funding is generally used to cover graduate students, lab space, costs of the IRB and other shared resources. Health Sciences has already instituted hiring freezes given their reliance on grant funded faculty and staff lines.
 - To Julia's knowledge, the university's goal is to continue to be entrepreneurial and look for additional sources of funding rather than rely on the university's endowments. Per advancement, endowments each have an established purpose, so cannot be used for many of these concerns; as the university is gearing up for the next fundraising campaign, they are actively planning for the campaign and having such conversations (research and professorships).
 - Following the visit of long time philanthropist Trish Ring, the department and advancement have continued to build and refine a vision statement around philanthropy with a goal of future commitment for professors conducting research in vulnerable areas.
- Dr. Deleon provided an update regarding the potential Masters program in Behavioral Analysis, which is in early stages of development in conversations. There is some enthusiasm, including early meetings with Kristy and other community stakeholders but waiting to see what sort of agreements with incoming dean would be appropriate. He has an outline of what program would look like, what courses will be needed and in a manner to be accredited. Per Advancement, the development of these programs are generally a longer term project.
- Leadership Committee Update - Tony
 - Reviewed survey for Hall of Fame
 - Speakers, Mentors, UFPAB members
 - Could ask Sue Orsillo at APA Education office to help and national org for counselors
 - Several have agreed to be speakers
 - One question we might want to discuss, if someone comes from APA or National Register or Psi Chi, they may be able to fund their trip themselves. Do we fund speakers? Should we contact APS as well in order to focus on science? Could ask Mitch Prinstein as outgoing science officer
 - Amanda mentioned using Zoom presentations to avoid cost of paying a speaker
 - Julia - there is a pot of funds if speaker tied to sciences
 - May want to have both in person and Zoom speakers

- Post Doc information from APA would be helpful for clinical psych interest
 - Since the committee last met - how do universities survive with no indirect costs of 15%?
- Student Follow Up - have done a good job meeting students when we are there in person, should continue that
 - This year didn't address # or % of undergraduates who go on the doctorate; consider more emphasis on masters programs
 - Julia mentioned a 48 credit clinical masters is to be launched soon in the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology
 - Tony mentioned it could be a good money maker and important in light of possibility of federal government getting out of science research funding
 - Clinical has as many faculty as psychology but had done little undergraduate teaching but more research
 - Initial target of 8 students
 - Amanda - now might be a good time to cross-pollinate in person an event with clinical
- Martha - have we asked students about what topics they want to hear from speakers? Not that Julia is aware; could ask Dominic Purcell or Psi Chi advisor

Philanthropy:

- Philanthropy Committee - Dianne
 - Philanthropy Committee had no new projects or initiatives to share at this meeting
- Advancement Updates on Philanthropy - Lacie
 - Should have received Ytori magazine - see Psychology department highlight; Amanda's quote "Psychology is the Swiss army knife of degrees"
 - Amanda - Balkhi Foundation Learning Scholarship was awarded to three students
 - ABA Centers of Florida Scholarship (Kristy's organization) will be awarded for first time this year
- Advancement Leadership Changes - Lacie
 - Jason Jasper - will be Advancement liaison to PAB
 - Lacie Klann - will only be tangentially involved going forward
 - Close to being fully staffed again; still looking for Lauren Guidi-Mackey's replacement

Board Governance:

- Board Member Pipeline - Lacie
 - Lacie mentioned that adding Angie Winn shows a success
 - Nancy Wall started a new teaching position so asked to postpone her offer to join the Board

- Working with a person recommended by Pete; three recs from last meeting (1 from Willie, a couple from Tony) and might be able to onboard them in the spring
 - We need to consider, how big do we want Board to get
 - we've already outgrown the psych building, tight in Reitz spaces, which increases costs of meeting in person
 - Martha mentioned Leadership Committee's earlier suggestion of aiming for a total of 15-20 maximum
 - Dr. Sakina Butt was on parental leave when last contacted - she could be 15th person.
 - Also need to consider what happens as people roll off.
 - The Board does not anticipate Patty returning from her leave of absence for at least the next 3-6 months given current family obligations.
- The Board proposed the following future meeting agenda:
 - Fall 2025 potential topics/events
 - Have dean visit in person
 - Photos or videos of the Board for Giving Day - come camera ready!
 - Because of Engagement building internships and there is an Experiential Learning Coordinator in the department, focus on this topic? include Dominic Purcell? Julia mentioned emphasis on taking students out to work settings to see how work actually unfolds, may be a good time to get feedback from people about other things that might be initiated (at little cost);
 - Lacie mentioned inviting Taylor Stokes who leads Beyond 120 as well as department's faculty experiential learning coordinator.
 - Fall In Person Meeting
 - What space is big enough and easy to get to (faculty space is free). Lacie will look at it, but noted previous concerns about ADA access have been addressed.
 - The Board suggested an activity such as
 - Mixer with Clinical Psychology
 - Engagement Committee? Anything interactive with students, faculty, or both
 - Include retired faculty
 - Informal reception with snacks maybe at lunch time; students come if food
 - Could invite scholarship recipients
 - Awards ceremony? Recognition? Acknowledge UG/Grad group student officers
 - Rally again around purpose statement Julia mentioned earlier; why we are in psychology; emphasize supporting students and their good work
 - Give attendees permission/time to offer what they are grateful for; share some wins

- Spring 2026 will mark official leadership transitions. Following Board nominations prior to the meeting, the Department Chair will appointment a President-Elect. Board members encouraged to think about their interest in leadership positions
- 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 - Dec 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