

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.

May 17, 2024 Psychology Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Location: Zoom

In Attendance:

Board Members: Amanda Balkhi (President), Antonio E. Puente (Past President), Martha Zlokovich (President Elect and Leadership Committee Chair), Janette Berne, Dianne Allen, Chris Pitisci, Fredrick L. Coolidge, Meredith Wikstrom (Philanthropy Committee Chair)

UF Representatives: Julia Graber (Department Chair), Lacie Klann (Advancement), Lauren Guidi-Mackey (Advancement), Willie DeLeon (Department Vice Chair)

Future Meetings: Fall 2024 in Person (September 19-20)

Engagement:

- Engagement Committee current goals held by the committee. 1) Connect with Psi Chi and Psychology Club to create Social Media Posts (IT) for their respective instagrams and list serves to engage students in Mentor Connect, 2) Reach out to alumni to recruit more mentors in various fields, get videos, and begin the process of developing relationships for internships in diverse fields, and 3) Draft email engagement with seniors to build connection and opportunity to enroll in post graduate follow up.

Engagement Committee Member Chris Pitisci shared a brief update on the committee's letter initiative. The Engagement committee shared the previously drafted alumni letter with leadership and will be drafting a letter to graduating seniors to be shared with Julia.

- The Board engaged in a brainstorming session moderated by Antonio Puente regarding the potential initiatives of the Board. In a previous meeting, the Board identified six potential initiatives - a Hall of Fame, an Undergraduate or Graduate student welcome letter, enhancing the number of speakers available to the student organizations within the Department, expanding the alumni video project, supporting Department Communication Efforts, and providing ongoing communication about resources for students.

The Board determined that the Wall of Fame and Graduate/Undergraduate Student Welcome Letter were two initiatives it would like to pursue first. The Board determined that a digital Hall of Fame that honors both student alumni and faculty alumni for their contributions to Psychology, the Department, or the University may

be appropriate. A short term task force composed of Fredrick L. Coolidge, Willie DeLeon, Meredith Wikstrom, and Peter Dodzik was formed to determine potential qualifying criteria for the Hall of Fame and shepherd this project into fruition. Antonio Puente and Dianne Allen volunteered to draft the first letters of welcome to students.

Leadership:

- Dr. Julia Graber provided a departmental update. She indicated that the Department has officially hired Dr. Yuki Shigemoto within the Counseling area, but that the additional assistant/associate level position remains unfilled and will be added to the Department's search for the next year. Within the Quantitative faculty line, the Department formally hired Dr. Nicholas Coles and anticipates sending a final offer letter to a second potential faculty member in the coming days. Challenges within the field, including Counseling Faculty candidates deciding to leave academic psychology, were discussed. The Department may pursue future efforts to recruit faculty as the assistant level and promote from within the Department.

Regarding existing faculty, the Post Tenure Review Process was implemented by the University. This brings the reviews to the Provost level and has created some challenges in demonstrating the full spectrum of accomplishments and contributions of the Psychology Department faculty. Dr. Graber shared that while individual faculty are continuing to navigate this process, the Department has continued to demonstrate excellence in outside funding and faculty awards. The Board's recent letter of encouragement to the faculty was also read at the Faculty retreat and received positively by all in attendance.

Graduate admissions were also completed since the last meeting, with 17 new graduate students joining the Department. The students reflect an increase in international students. The Board briefly discussed the potential for a terminal masters within the Department similar to how other Universities have diversified their graduate psychology offerings, however this is not something the Department is enacting at this time. Dr. Graber also reviewed graduate student awards - including 37 Departmental awards and numerous national and university level awards that graduate students received in the Spring. Dr. Zlokovich recommended that the Department and advising further explore Psi Chi awards for students as these are international awards.

- The Leadership Committee has previously shared the current goals of the committee: 1) The Board has increased representation of Psychology Graduates across fields and has 15 engaged Board Members 2) The Board has a clear and approved set of official Bylaws, 3) The Board's details, training, and interests are clearly reflected on the Board Webpage, and 4) the Board has a method of ongoing self-assessment.

Committee Chair Martha Zlokovich shared the results of the Board survey taken at the last in person meeting, noting that overall the survey results were positive. She also noted that the Committee was still in the process of selecting a new Committee Chair, given her appointment as President-Elect. The committee also requested assistance from those outside the committee in reviewing some alumni lists.

- The Board was notified prior to the meeting of an upcoming change in leadership at the College level, with the current Dean stepping down to the Chemistry Department and an Interim Dean being appointed effective in the summer semester. The Board discussed recognizing the past Dean in a letter and welcoming the new Dean. Antonio Puente and Dianne Allen will draft these letters and circulate them within the Board Listserv for review.

Philanthropy:

- The Philanthropy Committee's current goals are: 1) Determine the Board's annual focus for Giving Day (Annual, recurrent goal); 2) Create a path to enroll alumni in donating; and 3) Understand existing Department funding vehicles and collection status. In order to allow sufficient time for discussion of other agenda items, Philanthropy Committee did not provide an update at this meeting.
- Lacie Klann provided an update on behalf of the Advancement Office. Of the 141 donors to the Psychology Department on Gator Giving Day, 57 were first time donors, with the majority of donors (61%) identifying as UF Alumni. Lacie reviewed current donor stewardship efforts from the Advancement Office including handwritten notes from the Dean and individual follow ups with donors known to the Office. Dr. Graber added that she and Advancement will continue to maintain a relationship with the Department's recent large donor who has funded initiatives for both graduate students and faculty. Lacie requested that the Board film a thank you video at the Fall in person meeting in order to prepare for the 2025 Gator Giving Day.

Board Governance:

- Lacie Klann provided a brief update on prospects for Board service, including individuals local to Gainesville, individuals in the tech industry, and a current UF staff member. The Board reiterated its commitment to continued expansion of Board membership.
- The Board proposed the following future meeting agenda:
 - Fall 2024 - In Person Meeting - The Board will review committee progress and receive a Departmental update. A Board will record a ThankView for Grateful Gator Day and potentially Giving Day. Specific follow up items will be reviewed including committee and task force updates.

The Board will take a self assessment measure and discuss the feedback provided within it. The Board will also discuss ways to broaden the Department's relationship and collaboration with other Psychology Departments within the University (e.g. Clinical Psychology), potentially with an in-person mixer. The Board will participate in a working lunch with selected faculty.

Immediately prior to the Board Meeting, the Board suggests an event that allows the Board to interact with current students of the Department. The Board also requests the opportunity to interact with other CLAS or UF Advisory Boards if possible.

- 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:
 - Spring 2021 - June 30, 2024 Term: Amanda Balkhi, Patricia Thomas Shutt, Frederick L. Coolidge
 - Spring 2021 - Dec 31 2024 Term: Antonio E. Puente, Martha Zlokovich, Chris Pitisci
 - Fall 2022 - December 31, 2025 Term: Meredith Wikstrom
 - Spring 2023 - June 30, 2026 Term: Janette Berne, Peter Dodzik
 - Fall 2023 - December 2026 Term- Kristy Johnson, Dianne Allen

- Current Committee Assignments:
 - Engagement - Patricia Shutt (Chair), Fredrick L. Coolidge, Chris Pitisci, Kristy Johnson, Antonio Puente
 - Leadership - Martha Zlokovich (Chair), Janette Berne, Peter Dodzik
 - Philanthropy - Meredith Wikstrom (Chair), Amanda Balkhi, Dianne Allen