

*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:** In Person at the UF Psychology Building

**In Attendance:** Antonio Puente (Chair), Patricia Shutt, Chris Pitisci, Amanda Balkhi, Stephen Kraus (virtual), Hill Rowan, Julia Graber (Department Chair), Steve Evans

**Future Meetings:** July 15 11am - 1pm (Virtual) and Fall 2022 (In Person)

### **Engagement:**

- Dr. Graber shared the Department's new [LinkedIn](#) page along with the existing [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.
  - The board discussed ways to amplify the accomplishments of students and faculty within the Department via social media posts and brief student submitted videos and sharing of existing social media created by individual lab groups.
  - The Board made a commitment to follow and share the Department's social media.
- The Board met with a Beyond120 Representative regarding adoption of [MentorConnect](#).
  - The group discussed ways members can maintain involvement with MentorConnect when they have limited schedule availability. The platform's ability to limit the number of monthly consultations and Beyond120's willingness to establish panels or mentorship groups was also discussed.
  - The Board made a commitment to share MentorConnect with eligible alumni within their personal networks (with interested alumni contacting or being referred to [brittanygrubbs@advising.ufl.edu](mailto:brittanygrubbs@advising.ufl.edu)) and to create their personal MentorConnect profiles with the intention of sharing MentorConnect with students once the number of Psychology mentors available on the platform has increased.

### **Leadership:**

- The Board met with a small group of graduate students to solicit feedback on the Department.
  - Students were active and engaged and shared their enthusiasm for the department's resources (in some tracks/labs), student's exposure to teaching, the department's prioritization of science, and the department's overall warmth and care toward students.
  - The students shared suggestions for improvements including increased funding for international students and funding student research early within

the program (especially in tracks without endowments), improved cohesion between faculty in different tracks, an annual master's level research conference to bring together all students regardless of track, and improved connections to alumni in industry.

- The board thanked the graduate students for their input and encouraged future feedback. The board made a commitment to share MentorConnect with graduate students.
- Dr. Gaber shared a departmental update.
  - The Department has experienced recent successes in faculty grants (24 funded studies across 17 faculty), new hires, and grants given to students. Dr. Graber also shared the contributions of Dr. Natalie Ebner, who has established a grant writing group to assist other faculty in applying for diversity supplements - an area where she has had recent funding success.
  - The Department is also working to address recent challenges brought by the global financial landscape including retention and hiring of office staff, the need for targeted funding for international students over the summer, and the rising cost of needed renovations within the building. The Department is also working to improve faculty cohesion through the resumption of in person events and a Fall one day faculty retreat. Dr. Graber also acknowledged the Department's commitment to supporting faculty and staff within tracks in the program that have experienced faculty departures and retirements.
- The Board received a presentation by Dr. Bianca Evans-Donaldson, the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for CLAS outlining the college's commitment to DEI and the CLAS 2025 DEI Vision.
  - Dr. Evans-Donaldson emphasized the need to connect students to mentors within Psychology who are representative of the students, as well as, a continuing effort to connect students with existing resources on campus.
- Drs. Gravina and Abreu presented to the board on behalf of the Department's DEI Committee.
  - The DEI Committee's goals and actions to date were shared with the board, including an ongoing departmental climate survey and a DEI grievance reporting survey that had been created.
  - The DEI Committee shared faculty concerns regarding the future of faculty recruitment and teaching in the face of [HB7 - a law impacting Florida educators](#) that had recently passed. Drs. Gravina, Abreu, and Graber outlined the Department's commitment to supporting faculty and students, especially within the role of educator.
  - The Board reaffirmed its commitment to DEI principles within its construction and operation. The Board committed to providing a letter of support to the DEI committee and Dr. Puente pledged to bring a distinguished speaker on

campus in the Fall. The Board also requested updated undergraduate, graduate, and faculty demographic data from Dr. Graber.

**Philanthropy:**

- Dr. Graber led the board on a tour of the Psychology building to demonstrate the Department's current approach to piecemeal renovation and continued needs for renovation.

**Board Governance:**

- The Board appointed Dr. Balkhi to serve as secretary and approved the idea of Board meeting notes to be placed on the Departmental Website. The Board also provided feedback regarding member bios to be placed on the website.
- The Board requested a Board specific email for future communication to the department.
- The Board discussed adding new members. Advancement and the board identified some areas of the department that were not currently represented for potential future recruitment: ABA, Graduate Program Alumni, Psychologist within Tech, Alumni actively engaged in undergraduate education, I/O Psychologist, Alumni in the Northeast, Panhandle, Jacksonville, or Orlando area
- The Board scheduled and set the agenda for the upcoming two meetings.
  - July 15 - 11am - 1pm EST - The board will review its progress on goals in Engagement and Leadership and receive a brief update from Dr. Graber. Advancement will then present on successful strategies used by other boards on campus to encourage alumni philanthropy.
  - Fall 2022 - In Person Meeting - The board will review progress within Engagement and Leadership and receive a Departmental update regarding the Fall faculty retreat. In service of its long term health, the board will also discuss the creation of specific goals within each area of Engagement, Leadership, and Philanthropy. The board will then begin to develop a philanthropy plan that includes Departmental needs, options and ranges for alumni giving, and planning for 2023 Giving Day. If feasible, advancement will coordinate a listening session with a prolific past donor within Psychology.