Social Sciences Department Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 18, 2025

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm **(or immediately following School Meeting)**

Zoom: <https://fsw.zoom.us/j/82937142351>

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Economics** | **History** | **Psychology** | **Political Science** | **Sociology** |
| Juan Carlos Ginarte | Tom Donaldson | Leslie Bartley | Bruno Baltodano | Phil Wiseley |
| Randy Moffett | Gary Girod | Camille Drake-Brassfield | Joel Reinking |  |
| Alexandra Nikishin | Mark Herman | Jacquelyn Davis | David Schultz |  |
| Phillip Post | Brandon Jett (honorary) | Terri Housley |  |  |
|  | Stacy Klein | Sabine Maetzke |  |  |
|  | Kaitlyn Muchnok | Sheila Seelau - Excused |  |  |
|  | Matt Vivyan | Eric Seelau - Excused |  |  |
|  | Richard Kasesrman (adjunct) | Terri Taggart |  |  |
|  |  | Charles Brown (adjunct) |  |  |
|  |  | Renee Hester (adjunct) |  |  |

1. Welcome and Introductions

* Phillip Post shared insights from his recent interview with Wink News.
* Camille and Thomas reported on their participation at various conferences.
* New faculty members, Gary Girod and Stacy Klein, were welcomed to the department.

2. Acknowledgments

* Appreciation extended to lead faculty members for leadership and Camille for organizing Department gathering.

3. Hiring Updates

* POS New Hire Update**:**Bruno informed the department about the hiring freeze; however, we hired three new POS adjuncts.

4. Honors and CURC

* Congratulations to Brandon, who has been appointed as the new Director for Honors and the Center for Undergraduate Research (CURC).

5. Course Updates

* Course Redesigns**:**Updates were provided on course redesign initiatives:
  + WOH – Matt
  + DEP – Leslie and Sabine
  + AMH – Jillian Patch
* Course Developments:
  + POS 2041 is due for an update.
  + Bartley is stepping down as the online coordinator.

6. Mental Health Initiatives

* Camille is seeking support for the Mental Health Fair, which will be held across campuses.

7. Faculty Engagement

* A sign-up list for mentorship opportunities will be circulated among faculty members.

8. Administrative Matters

* Course Deletions: A list will be sent out to faculty members; feedback is needed by September 5.
* Assessments Focus: The department has chosen to prioritize AMH and PSY assessments this semester.
* Workforce Badges: Discussion on the Psychology badge was initiated, with further details to follow.
* Gen Ed Assessments**:**Investigate & Think;classes that may be randomly selected shared.

9. Study Abroad Initiative

* Alexandra is inviting faculty who are interested in submitting proposals for a study abroad program in China.

10. Committee Updates

* No new updates from committees.

Department Goals and Action Items

* The department has decided against implementing an AI language policy.
* The proposal for a citation language policy was also declined.
* Updates regarding Human Services will be provided in the next meeting.
* Thom is organizing the Christmas party scheduled for December 11.

Next Meeting

* **Date:**September 12, 2025 @ 2:00 PM via Zoom