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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 (adjunct) |  |
| Phillip Post | Brandon Jett | Terri Housley |  |  |
|  | Stacy Klein | Sabine Maetzke |  |  |
|  | Kaitlyn Muchnok | Sheila Seelau |  |  |
|  | Matt Vivyan | Eric Seelau |  |  |
|  | Amy English (adjunct/advising) | Terri Taggart |  |  |
|  | Richard Kaserman (adjunct) | Jesus Rivera (adjunct) |  |  |
|  |  | Renee Hester (adjunct) |  |  |

* Approved previous minutes

**Social Sciences**

* **Semester Updates**

Terri Taggart shared updates regarding the Faculty Senate Safety Committee, which is scheduled to review policies and procedures on November 17th.

Jacquelyn noted that Jillian Patch is currently developing a video tutorial aimed at assisting students in effectively using various technology tools, such as Canva and Lucid, within the new AMH Canvas shell.

Faculty members were encouraged to provide feedback to the Cultural Experiences Subcommittee regarding meaningful cultural experiences that have made an impact on students at FSW.

* **Guest: Dr. Elijah Pritchett- Effectiveness Coordinator**

Elijah led a discussion on assessment planning for the upcoming spring semester, highlighting the significance of innovative assessment methods and the continuous improvement of practices. He stressed that assessments should serve to gather insights about students and courses, rather than merely functioning as evaluative tools. To inspire creative thinking, he proposed the use of dispositional assessments in humanities as an example of a more nuanced approach to evaluation. Additionally, Elijah urged faculty members to avoid simply reusing existing assessment instruments, advocating instead for the consideration of long-term, innovative strategies that enhance the assessment experience.

Elijah plans to reach out to Tom, Eric, Juan, and Bruno to arrange meetings focused on assessment updates and to explore ways to modernize and revitalize their department's assessment practices. Juan, Thom, and Bruno will each connect with their respective colleagues to brainstorm and share assessment ideas.

Eric is actively working on distributing the psychology assessment survey to faculty members teaching Introduction to Psychology, aiming to gather valuable feedback and insights.

* **Guest: Dr. Heather Olson - Director, Online Teaching and Learning Experience**

**“Harmonize” Overview**

Heather showcased Harmonize, an innovative tool designed to simplify the grading process and boost student engagement through features such as auto-grading, rubric creation, and social annotation. Leslie recounted her positive experience with Harmonize, emphasizing its user-friendly interface and the capability to deliver detailed feedback.

The faculty engaged in a discussion about the potential of Harmonize to enhance student interactions and presentations. Kaitlyn highlighted its incorporation into a new course shell, while Heather recommended the Harmonize Toolkit as a valuable resource for those looking to get started with the platform.

* **Textbook Adoptions/Updates Spring 2026**

Faculty were requested to submit any new textbook adoptions for the upcoming semester. Forms for DEP 2004 and CLP 2140 have been submitted.

* **Mental Health Fair - Drake-Brassfield**

Camille noted that the mental health fair would clash with the Great Renaissance Fair and decided not to infuse it with the Renaissance Fair theme.

* **Assessments Updates -Seelau, Donaldson, Ginarte, Baltodano**

Eric discussed changes to psychology assessments, explaining that a survey would be sent to faculty teaching Introduction to Psychology to assess teaching methods and student understanding. Juan, Thom, and Bruno will each connect with their respective colleagues to brainstorm and share assessment ideas.

**Committee Updates (as needed)**

* Academic Standards – C. Drake-Brassfield
* Academic Technology – L. Bartley
* ARC- R. Moffett
* Curriculum Committee – R. Moffett
* Faculty Senate – K. Muchnok
* GEAC – R. Moffet, J. Reinking
* Honors Advisory Council – P. Wisely, B. Baltodano, M. Herman, J. Davis
* Holocaust Committee – M. Herman, B. Baltodano
* Learning Assessment – E. Seelau, T. Donaldson
* OTOC – S. Maetzke
* **Professional Development – S. Maetzke**

Sabine encouraged faculty to submit requests for conferences and other professional development opportunities.

**Department Goals/Action Items:**

* Christmas party-Donaldson-No updates

*Next Department Meeting: November 14, 2025 @ 2:00 pm*