Department Meeting Agenda Items March 13, 2020

**Welcome**

Accomplishments since last meeting

Oscar Garza and James Blair will both be receiving the NISOD Teaching Excellence Award in May. STC has 15 total award recipients this year. Each department was asked to nominate one faculty. The fact that we ended up with two from our department means we must be doing something right.

**Reports**

Anyone who needs to make a report for any of the areas below should include it in their “reply all” email response

Recruiting/Retention/Advising

Curriculum Committee

Faculty Senate

Social Committee

Scholarship Committee

conferences attended

**Instructor X**

Some people have too much free time on their hands

…and questionable thought processes. A faculty from another department filed an HR complaint against Anthropology for their meme flyers advertising Anthropology. According to Instructor X, “Take Anthropology, even space aliens do it” on a picture with space aliens and the Egyptian pyramids is too lewd and sexually suggestive to be posted in public. This complaint took at least two full working days to resolve.

Senior administration is commissioning a faculty efficiency survey that will occur within the next year. The idea will be to find out how efficient faculty are for the amount of budget money spent on them (i.e., are we overpaid). Senior administration is looking for ways to cut the fat from the budget to cover our lost revenues (we did not bring in enough enrollment money to cover our budget this semester), and they have decided that faculty should be the first place to look. Some faculty at STC probably won’t be helping this negative view of faculty that is implied by looking to us first for the source of bloat and inefficiencies.

**Housekeeping Stuff**

Academic Classification: Rich Huber for Assistant Professor  
All FTR faculty need to send me an email directly (DO NOT include this in the “replay all” virtual department meeting email) with their vote of YES or NO to recommend Rich Huber for classification as Assistant Professor. Each FTR faculty will also need to sign the sheet in the front of his classification portfolio available on Rosalba’s desk.

ACJS is the week after Spring Break.

Most of us will be attending, unless VPAA decides to cancel the approved travel. VPAA is currently reviewing all previously approved travel requests to ascertain the risk of the Corvid 19 virus. I’ll be back on March 30th if the travel isn’t cancelled.

Summer and Fall 2020 registration began March 2nd.

Please remind students to register early. Also let them know that we are adding CRIJ 1307 Crime in America and CRIJ 2323 Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement to our list of electives available in Fall 2020. We are starting with one section each online and at Pecan Campus for Fall 2020.

Email and other communications, required documentation and reports, etc.

I’m putting on the cranky boss hat here for a minute:

A reminder that all faculty are required to check *and respond* to their emails and other messages at least once per workday. **This means Monday through Friday, even if you don’t have classes scheduled on a particular day. Especially on Fridays.** Some faculty aren’t keeping up with their communications and it is becoming a problem. It doesn’t matter if you are in the classroom and/or driving from location to location all day; you still have to make time to attend to your email and messages each work day.

Likewise, we are having some repeat problems with reports and other required documentation not being submitted on time. I understand the occasional “Oops” and recognize that sometimes the various data entry systems can be glitch (you may want to consider printing or taking a screenshot of the submission verification page as proof against the glitches). The fact remains that these reports are required either by law and/or STC policy, and that every failure to submit these required items ends up in a report that I have to justify. If there are glitches, let me know so I can see about getting them fixed. Ditto if you need training on how to submit the required reports; I can either walk you through it myself or refer you to the official training staff. If the problem is a personal issue of forgetting/not caring, then it is up to the individual to correct this problem. Tie a string around your finger, put a sticky note on your computer, tattoo it on your forehead backwards so you can read it in the mirror, whatever it takes.

If these problems continue and are the fault of the faculty (not system glitch issues), I will begin reducing overloads/class assignments for the faculty involved in order to free up the time needed for them to properly attend to their full job requirements. *Overloads are a privilege contingent upon performing all required job duties.* Communications and mandatory reporting will be especially critical if we have to use our contingency plan to switch all classes to online format to finish out the semester.

To be clear: I’ll go to bat for people who are having technical issues. I’ll even underwrite the occasional “oops” as a learning opportunity as long as it does not become a pattern. I do have a problem when it is the same people showing up on the non-compliance reports every semester and/or ones I have to hunt down to get an answer. We’re all experienced professionals; I shouldn’t have to hound people like a Kindergarten teacher to get them to do their jobs.

For those who do stay on top of everything, thank you and carry on.

**Old Stuff**

UTRGV Articulation agreement renewal signing ceremony March 2nd 10AM Rainbow Room

One was signed on camera, and the rest were to be signed later. No changes to our agreement. UTRGV has agreed to accept all CRIJ courses in the ACGM (even is UTRGV does not teach them), and our students can transfer in up to 66 credit hours.

Another challenge coin update

PR is still trying to convince Purchasing to allow them to buy the coins for us (we’d still pay for them).

Textbook selections:

Based on the votes I did receive from faculty, these are the textbooks we will be adopting Fall 2020

CRIJ 1307: Criminology (Justice Series) 5th Edition by Frank Schmalleger, from Pearson

CRIJ 1310: Keep the current book for another year

CRIJ 1313: Juvenile Justice: Policies, Programs, and Practices 5th Edition by Taylor & Fritsch, McGraw Hill

CRIJ 2323: Constitutional Law in Criminal Justice 2nd Edition by Tina Fryling, from Wolters Kluwer

**New Stuff**

Assignments in Blackboard for all classes?

Not a requirement yet, but VPAA is wanting to go that direction for routine operations. The escalating concerns over the Corvid 19 virus and the possibility of having to close our campuses are adding fuel to this desire that VPAA has wanted for the past few years. The fact that Harvard has joined the list of universities making this shift for the remainder of the semester will only heighten this concern.

**On the Horizon**

DPS Mock Physical Fitness test May 2 in Weslaco

HPD physical fitness test and interviews May 20 in McAllen

**Department Meetings Dates:** Apr 17, May 8 (if needed)

**Workshops**

If you have not done so already, finish preparing to put all of your exams and assignments into Blackboard. Be ready to switch to fully online teaching by the week after Spring Break. I hope we don’t have to make this switch, but I have a bad feeling that we’ll end up doing so. I’ll send out updated information and instructions as I receive them.

**Questions**

**Dismiss**

**Homework:**

Prepare for the Drunken Zombie Apocalypse