Department Faculty Meeting

October 18, 2022
Noon – 1:20
In person: Gould 440

Agenda items

12:00 - 12:10	Agenda	Campbell
12:10 - 12:15	Approval of minutes – October 4, 2022	Campbell
12:15 – 12:45	GRE for MUP – discussion and vote	Born/Campbell
12:45 – 1:15	CBE Space Evaluation – updates and discussion	Bae/Campbell
1:15 – 1:20	Open	All

Attendance:

Faculty Present
1. Dan Abramson
2. Rachel Berney
3. Branden Born (late)
4. Christopher Campbell
5. Manish Chalana
6. Sofia Dermisi
7. Himanshu Grover
8. Qing Shen
9. Jan Whittington
10. Dylan Stevenson
11. Bob Freitag

Staff Present
1. Teri Thomson Randall
2. Diana Siembor

Faculty absent
1. Mark Purcell
2. David Blum
3. Andy Dannenberg

Came to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve minutes from Oct 4, 2022 faculty meeting — **Approved**
Himanshu motioned to pass. Rachel seconded motion.

I.   CBE Space Evaluation – updates and discussion

Christine and Diana are on the committee. Christine has reported from the first committee meeting. College has asked for department's top three priorities. These are our collective priorities. There will be two opportunities to convey individual priorities:

A. Survey for faculty and staff
B. Workshops

Edith sent out a survey asking for feedback from faculty and staff. Are there ways we can use our existing space to better meet the needs in the college?

Jan serves on the UW Space Advisory Council as the Capital Planning Advisory Team (CPAT) (see this doc for more info). Part of UW capital planning. The committee viewed maps and lists of buildings in order of priority for "renewal." Gould Hall was in the red, meaning, among the buildings that are slated for demolition and renewal. [Note: Jan clarified later that was an error and that Gould is NOT on a list slated for demolition (CDC 11/12/22).]

[A UDP faculty member wishing to remain anonymous] commented that, based on the PPT, we are being asked to refine the vision, not participate in conceiving the vision. We don't know how the dean's office has selected this architect. How does the selection of this architect further equity and diversity? Could we see the list of architects that were considered? Of this firm, the ownership is entirely white. Were minority groups in the running? How were they considered? And how did they fail to be selected? Until these questions are answered, [this faculty member] will not participate in the focus groups. He has asked that his comments be kept anonymous.

Christine added that the architect was selected in Sept 2022. Things have moved quickly. Renée says there will be no new building. Faculty are asking: What scale of re-programming should we be thinking of? How much energy should we be putting into this? How should we prioritize this?

Sofia: the timeline suggests that the prep work was done before they got the contract. We should participate, and try to change the direction.

Manish quoted from the strategic plan regarding EDI.
Bob: we need to think of space differently post-COVID. It includes offices downtown, homes. Why consider new a building in this new situation?
Jan: We should request Renée's proposal to the provost's office, the proposal from the architect, and the follow-up docs. We need to request transparency.

Qing said we need to offer space for visiting scholars.

Christine encouraged faculty to fill out the survey and to attend workshops to have a voice in the process.

Christopher: We can also request more time and ways of participating. Faculty could write a letter. Christopher has sent the google sheet out. Christopher added a column called "pts" so that people can add their "+1" to show agreement with a particular suggestion.

Branden: We could be viewed as obstinate. We might miss out because of timing. There are decisions we cannot modify or have any agency over. We should focus our time on things we can influence the most.

II.   GRE for MUP – discussion and vote

Do we want to re-establish the GRE requirement as part of our MUP admissions evaluation process? The GRE requirement was suspended during the pandemic. We need to get our admissions criteria onto our website ASAP as students are putting together their applications. An e-vote has been requested

Other options: Can we require something else?

Branden presented his one-pager on his MUP program research, looking at GPA at the end of the second year relative to the variables of GRE score, previous GPA, amount of time out, and two other variables. Study of 110 students over three cohorts: 2018-2019, 2020.

Research suggests that the GRE is a predictor of "middle class whiteness and the ability to afford a prep class."

Findings: Spread in quant GRE scores is 32 - this is a very small range.
GRE quant score is mostly not predictive of GPA, but it is a little predictive. And there are other implications.

Dan: GPA doesn't reflect which courses students are taking. Some may be taking easier classes.

Qing: Has doubts about the methodology and findings.

Christopher presented Diana's research on what other MUP programs around the country (ones that we consider to be our peer programs) are requiring. None of the other programs are requiring the GRE. UCLA has made it an option. Evans School is not requiring it, instead asking people to write an essay describing their background in quantitative skills. UDP PhD steering committee voted to require the GRE; BE PhD voted not to require it.

Jan: If we drop the GRE, it would be good to have question(s) about the student's quant background as part of their application.

Himanshu: not all of our students need quant skills. Some need qual skills. Perhaps we set an admissions target that a certain percent have quant skills.

Motion:
Jan moved that **we no longer require the GRE for the MUP program on the condition that we modify the Evans School quant application essay for our purposes in time for the incoming applications this year.**
Dan seconded.

Manish proposed that we have students demonstrate their experience and training in quant, but that a background in quant is not prioritized in our admissions process. Some students only need to pass a stats class. This amendment was pushed back. It is not a "friendly amendment."

Amend the motion with Manish's amendment? **The amendment does not pass**

Jan's motion is on the table, will be sent out as an e-vote

Adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

[Motion passed by evote]