

## Department Faculty Meeting

February 22, 2022

Noon – 1:20

**ONLINE MEETING ONLY**

**Zoom Link**

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/94538497195>

### Agenda items

12:00 - 12:05	COVID and Gould Building update	Campbell
12:05 - 12:10	Meeting Minute vote from Feb 8	Campbell
12:10 - 12:25	PAB update	Campbell
12:25 – 12:40	Fac hire updates	Campbell/search chairs
12:40 – 1:00	UDP voting policy memo - Possible vote	Campbell
1:00 – 1:20	Short topics	Open

### Present

Daniel Abramson, Marina Alberti, Rachel Berney, David Blum, Erica Bush, Christopher Campbell, Manish Chalana, Andrew Dannenberg, Sofia Dermisi, Himanshu Grover, Bob Mugerauer, Mark Purcell, Qing Shen, Alexis Wheeler, Jan Whittington

### COVID and Gould Building update

There's been a delay in shipping the furnace part, so heat probably won't be restored to Gould Hall until the end of Winter Quarter. For this reason, the next UDP faculty meeting on March 8th may also be remote.

### Meeting Minute vote from Feb 8

Bob moved to approve minutes from Feb 8th

Mark seconded

8 in favor, 2 abstentions, 0 opposed

### **PAB update**

PAB representatives met with UDP faculty two weeks ago, conducting a thorough review of the department as part of a pre-accreditation visit. Christopher is waiting on PAB's written report. He stated verbal feedback from the exit interview was quite positive, though PAB identified a few areas for improvement/growth: specializations (e.g. offer a community housing/development specialization), student and faculty diversity, and faculty promotion (from Assoc. Professor to full Professor to avoid becoming a middle-heavy department). The final decision about the length of accreditation will be made in spring.

Christopher thanked Rachel for helping to write the PAB report and invited her to share any additional feedback she recalled. Rachel noted PAB's concern about the faculty gender imbalance (skewed male), and - responding to PAB's concerns about racial diversity - she observed that 24 underrepresented minority (URM) applicants were offered admission to MUP, though only five accepted. She speculated that the low acceptance rate was due to better financial aid offers from other schools, as well as a need to expand the applicant pool through broader outreach. Marina added that URM students need to see themselves reflected in the student and faculty bodies. Erica raised the high cost of living in Seattle and asked what's being done to help defray such costs. Highlighting recent fundraising successes that added nearly \$300K to UDP's equity fund, Christopher identified fellowships as the main form of grad student financial support. Rachel added that the advising team has begun offering prospective student info sessions that address cost and affordability.

Finally, Marina noted that the PAB reps encouraged more innovation in the department. Based on current course offerings, Jan observed UDP can already almost offer specializations in informatics and climate mitigation. Rachel encouraged innovative pedagogical changes, including expanded capstone options. Christopher echoed this point, noting PAB pushed for more students to pursue a professional capstone instead of a traditional academic thesis. To increase accessibility, Sofia suggested adopting of a hybrid model for MUP students, with most work done remotely and only a week or so spent on campus (like Foster's MBAs are doing now).

### **Faculty hire updates**

For the cohort hire, the faculty search committee has identified a short list of five candidates to invite for "on-campus" interviews, which will include a job talk and opportunities to meet with the Dean, Chair, faculty, and graduate students. Christopher will share the schedule template for the campus interviews, which probably won't wrap up before the next faculty meeting on March 8th.

For the data science hire, the last job talk is scheduled for March 3rd. Thereafter, the search committee will prepare draft recommendations for discussion and a vote on top candidates at the next faculty meeting. As this is a joint hire (CBE + School of Public Health), the search committee will also seek input from relevant faculty in SPH (who will meet for a vote on March 11th).

Christopher emphasized that all discussion and voting on faculty hires must wrap up by March 18th. Since cohort hire job talks probably won't finish before March 8th, a special meeting of the faculty may be needed - either on March 11th or during finals week - to vote on a list of three unranked candidates to send to the Dean. In addition, if further discussion is needed before a vote on the data science candidates, that must be done on March 11th.

In response to a question about the number of minority applicants for each position, Jan noted that information is tracked in Interfolio and was shared with the Dean's Office during the first round of applicant screening.

### **UDP voting policy memo**

Christopher provided an overview of the voting policy memo and invited feedback. Jan requested more time to review the memo and check it against the Faculty Code; she also asked (1) for a list of faculty eligible to vote and (2) that the memo be shared as a google doc to facilitate comments. Daniel and Qing also requested more time to review the memo before voting on it. Christopher will share the memo as a Google doc and prepare a list of voting-eligible faculty ahead of the March 8th faculty meeting, at which the voting policy will top the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.