

## **GalM Faculty Meeting 3/20/2020**

**Attending:** Natalie Underberg-Goode, Taylor Howard, Maria Harrington, Emily Johnson, Eric Murnane, Madeline Davis, Dan Novatnak, Devin Monnens, Eddie Lohmeyer, Dan Cox, Anastasia Salter, John Murray, Gideon Shbeeb, Rudy McDaniel, Matthew Mosher, Eileen Smith, Mel Stanfill, Terrell Theen, Matin Salemirad, Peter Smith, Ross Wolf

**Call to Order:** Natalie Underberg-Goode @12pm

**Approval of Minutes:** Mel – motion to approve, Taylor – motion to accept, all approve

### **Agenda Items:**

#### I. Q & A with Dr. Ross Wolf

##### Questions and comments about moving classes to pass / fail

Gideon: There has been a discussion about moving university classes to pass / fail – any updates about that?

Ross: Some universities have done this, but it could have an impact on grad schools; it may be an opt-in option for students, or it may be designated only for certain classes

Mel: Faculty senate discussed this as well; it is on the table but not for every class, but the board of governors may require it regardless.

Natalie: How would this affect financial aid?

Ross: We aren't sure about that yet.

Dan N: This should be the educator's decision.

##### Questions and comments about technology access

Mosher: One issue is that students don't have access to technology; could we find a way to provide equal access, and would moving to pass / fail help with that?

Maria: It would definitely smooth out operations if we could provide technology for students.

Dan N: We have tried to do this before and ran into hurdles with it from an operational standpoint.

Matthew: Other institutions do provide technology to students.

##### Concerns about returning to campus

Maria: What plans are there to decrease the uncertainty surrounding going back to campus / when and how will we do that?

Ross Wolf: We are still in discussion about that, but we want to ensure that staff and faculty have time before bringing students back. Right now B term summer would be the soonest that would happen.

#### II. Updates

Natalie: Search committees should be thinking about how to bring in candidates or whether we will do things virtually

Mel: We can do it virtually or fail the search since it is very unlikely that people are travelling soon.

Anastasia: It is extremely unlikely that we can bring people to campus right now and it would be too late to bring people in physically by the time we can return to campus.

Natalie: We can provide a website that grad students can show their work on; we also want to provide some kind of opportunity for them to showcase their work

Natalie: We have access to 150 machines for students to complete remote work on; I gave an update on the various options

Gideon: Less than 5% of students in workshop said they could complete the class.

Dan N: Students who are struggling with getting programs to run on their computer will probably struggle with the remote connection software and it requires a pretty strong internet connection; doing some kinds of digital work on it will be difficult as well.

Natalie: We need to identify specific students in courses who need this access and set it up for them.

Natalie: Webcourses has provided us with 3GB of storage

Natalie: Ross Wolf has provided us with \$25,000 for a bootcamp instructor; should we reallocate this to help remediate the worst loss of skills that people will suffer from when transitioning to online?

We need help diagnosing this issue and finding a way to fix it; Natalie wants volunteers on using this money.

Natalie: Promotion and Tenure is still continuing on, we have asked them for an extension on this

Natalie: We need a volunteer for the scholarship committee at the NSCM school level

Eric Murnane volunteered.

### III. Coronavirus Response: Reports and Concerns

Peter: Should we sign the remote work document?

Natalie: It hasn't been bargained with the union; you will suffer no penalties if you are not going to sign it (but email Natalie if you won't sign it).

Rudy: What is the situation with federal work study students? There is guidance that should allow them to still get correctly paid and don't need to have a direct supervisor

Mel: What is the situation with annual evaluations and SPOIs?

Natalie: I will raise this concern to Robert.

Maria: They could modify that questionnaire for SPOIs and interpret the data more effectively to help guide this process to improve teaching; a policy letter or something like that could be particularly useful for this.

Gideon Shbeeb: A few students mentioned that they dropped the class because they were concerned about being to continue without a face-to-face interaction; we may need to bring this up with advising.

Dan N: Students are actually interacting a bit more than in the past because of the lack of face-to-face interaction; Slack has also been very helpful for group work.

Peter: We may want to provide a caveat on our FARs that our reviews may be lower due to this situation.

#### IV. Other

Natalie: We are working on finding a new staff person to handle administrative tasks.

Maria: We may want to share success stories, tips, and tricks, especially for lab and workshop classes.

Eddie: There are fundamentally many courses in this program that will suffer due to this shift (especially classes like physical computing).

Madeline: I have been using Skype for mock interviews.

John: Cahoot is making their premium version available.

**Adjournment:** Natalie: Motion to adjourn; Eric: seconded; All approved.