

Faculty Meeting (March 2020)

compiled by GSR

- Welcome Erica
 - She will take faculty meeting notes from now on
- Fred Bookstein (faculty senator) was going to visit
 - talk to rename job titles for tenure track lecturer (via faculty vote)
 - * change to assistant teaching professor, associate teaching professor, teaching professor
 - will come for meet and greet in April
- Probably have new administrator Katherine McDermott from construction management: given verbal offer and has kind-of unofficially accepted
 - will start part time with us next week
 - expected to finalize soon
- AMATH and other departments received gift of \$10,000 from Baidu for running seminars
 - Because Baidu is Chinese corporation and there are new federal rules for this, there is a lot of paperwork. But probably will be set
- Novel Coronavirus
 - 8 fatal cases in WA state, other cases in other states, clearly will continue to spread
 - at chair's meeting, Bob Stacy pointed out that so far no known incidents of racism on campus yet
 - increasing worry
 - * petition to close University
 - if things get worse, wouldn't be surprised if campus closes
 - If a student wants to stay at home (for fear of getting sick or because they are sick) this is not something we want to discourage
 - * need increased flexibility
 - webpage from Center for Teaching and Learning about what to do when operations are suspended
 - currently many courses already good for online
 - CFRM currently doing admissions and extending offers (increased attention from students getting offers)
 - * already seeing impact before this weekend. e.g. student from China cannot make deposits, US embassys closed so can't get paperwork/visas, etc.
 - * questions from current students about switching to online
 - currently all CFRM resources online

- * uncertainty about how long this will last
 - Would not be surprising if this results in small yield for this years PhD and Masters classes
 - May make adjustments for projective weekend such as livestreaming certain events
- Craig, Nathan, Tom: Recommendations for 301 programming language:
 - need to change something
 - * if we stay the course with MATLAB we could be stuck, but some departments want MATLAB
 - * discussed possibility of different sections for different languages
 - too complicated
 - whatever is done should be uniform, recommendation to adjust courses to have resources for python and MATLAB
 - biggest barrier to going to python is lack of grading
 - * scorelator can be updated, but someone has to do that
 - * position for student to update scorelator over spring and fall, or find alternative
 - Also need to develop video tutorials and side by side codes for both languages
 - How to deal with additional strain on instructors and TAs
 - * reduce topics covered somewhat, more focus on programing aspects
 - general push to python, but some departments heavily invested in MATLAB (ex. control theory)
 - aim to start teaching with Python and MATLAB by fall
 - some discussion about Python and MATLAB in other courses
- AMATH Bylaws (currently the department has none)
 - Tentative bylaws shown to determine points of discussion
 - will return to discuss:
 - * PhD defence during colloquim
 - * Policies for assigning TAs
- Undergraduate major
 - KK doing now
 - Propose admissions committee
 - taking on the major was a departmental decision, so general support required