

Department of Communication

Assembly Minutes

September 11, 2015

Those in attendance: E. Toth (Chair), A. Wolvin, M. Murray-Yang, R. Chang, S. Parry-Giles, T. Parry-Giles, E. Sommerfeldt, A. Seate-Atwell, D. Hample, N. Joyce, X. Nan, J. Lu, K. Maddux, J. Gowin, L. Anderson, L. Aldoory, S. Khamis

- I. Approval of the Agenda on motion of N. Joyce and second of X. Nan
- II. Approval of the minutes of the August 28 meeting on motion D. Hample and second of E. Sommerfeldt.
- III. Reports
 - A. The Faculty Advisory Committee's slate nominating Salary Advisory Committee members was approved.
 - B. E. Toth provided a Chair's Report on a search for an assistant professor in rhetoric and political culture, and on the budget picture.
- IV. L. Aldoory was elected representative to the ARHU Collegiate Council.
- V. The Assembly held an open forum on how to move forward in re-envisioning the undergraduate communication major. It agreed to spend 90 minutes of its Oct. 2, 2015 meeting in further discussion.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Chang

Department of Communication

Assembly Minutes

October 2, 2015

Those in attendance: E. Toth (Chair), A. Wolvin, M. Murray-Yang, R. Chang, S. Parry-Giles, T. Parry-Giles, E. Sommerfeldt, D. Hample, N. Joyce, X. Nan, J. Lu, K. Maddux, J. Gowin, L. Anderson, L. Aldoory, S. Khamis, L. Waks

- I. Approval of the Agenda on motion of E. Sommerfeldt and second of S. Khamis
- II. Approval of the minutes of the September 11 meeting with minor changes (Removal of J. Klumpp's name from the minutes) on motion N. Joyce and second of A. Wolvin.
- III. Proposed changes to the Department APT Policies were approved (attached).
YES: 13 NO: 1 ABSTENTION: 1
- IV. Discussion of Re-envisioning of the undergraduate major. An ad hoc committee, with volunteers K. Maddux, A. Wolvin, and N. Joyce, will draft a goals/outcomes statement for the Assembly consideration at its November meeting.
- V. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Chang

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, AND TENURE PROCEDURES

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- I. APT Committee Membership.
- A. Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure (APT) Committee. The membership of the appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee shall be as defined in the department's Plan of Organization.
 - B. Senior APT Committee. The membership of the Senior Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee shall be as defined in the department's Plan of Organization. In the event that the number of members at the rank of Professor is fewer than three, the Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities may appoint one or more eligible faculty members from related units for review and assessment purposes. A member of the Senior APT Committee will be elected Chair of the APT Committee and will preside at all APT and Senior APT meetings.
 - C. Emergency APT Committee. ~~Occasionally, new faculty appointments must be reviewed during the summer.~~ For non-tenured, tenure-track positions filled during the summer, the Department Chair and/or APT Chair may convene an Emergency APT Committee. All members of the APT Committee in residence (on staff or otherwise available) are members of this committee. The Department Chair and/or APT Chair will make a conscientious effort to notify all APT Committee members of the convening of an Emergency Committee, and recommendations of an Emergency Committee of fewer than the full APT Committee will require a 2/3 affirmative vote.
 - D. Subcommittees. For various activities of Committees that cannot reasonably be performed by the full Committee, the APT Chair may appoint a subcommittee from among the Committee. Subcommittee membership must be approved by a majority of the committee. In no case may a vote of a subcommittee substitute for the vote of the APT Committee. All votes of subcommittees that influence the report of the subcommittee shall be reported to the full Committee, but no such vote shall be a part of any written report. Only the vote of the full APT Committee shall be the official vote on decisions of the Committee. All reports of subcommittees must be submitted to the parent committee and become official statements of the APT process only when adopted by the full committee.
 - E. Department Chair Participation. The Department Chair is *ex-officio* member of all APT Committees with voice but without vote.
 - F. Chair of the Review Subcommittee. Each subcommittee having assessments to be performed during the year shall elect a Chair at its first meeting of the academic year. The Chair's duties shall include writing the recommendation (including the vote of the committee and the basis for the decision) on the candidate and recording the transactions at the review meeting and reviewing the Department Chair's letters to the candidate to ensure their accurate reflection of the APT Committee's recommendation and rationale.

- G. **Quorum.** A quorum for all meetings of the APT Committee and its subcommittees shall be a majority of the voting membership, excluding (1) those on official leave or otherwise on assignment at the University of Maryland, College Park, who decline to participate in APT (and, as relevant, Senior APT) meetings, and (2) those committee members not participating in a matter because of a conflict of interest.

An individual declining shall specify the dates to which the decline applies, and this information shall be provided to the committee chair in writing. The individual may withdraw the decline at any time by informing the committee chair in writing.

- H. **Voting.** All votes to approve reports or to recommend personnel actions to the department chair must be cast in writing, as secret ballots, unless unanimous consent is given for another method of voting. Votes on matters of procedure and during editing processes may be taken by voice or by show of hands; however, any such vote shall be conducted by written secret ballot if requested by any member of the committee present at the meeting.

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- II. **Faculty Mentor.** The Department Chair shall provide for the mentoring of each assistant professor and of each untenured associate professor by one or more members of the senior faculty other than the Department Chair. Mentors should encourage, support, and assist these faculty members and be available for consultation on matters of professional development. With specific reference to teaching and advisement; research, scholarship, and creative activity; and service, mentors should advise tenure-track faculty of the prevailing standards of quality and of the most effective ways to demonstrate that they meet the standards. Mentors need to be frank and honest about the progress of the faculty member toward fulfilling the criteria for tenure and/or promotion. Comments by mentors are purely advisory to faculty members, do not represent the views of the APT Committee, and do not assure a favorable tenure and/or promotion decision.

III. **Assessments & Reviews.**

- A. **Initial Appointment.** All appointments to tenure-track positions in the department must be referred to the APT committee for approval (or to an Emergency Committee under the conditions described in Section I.C. above). All initial appointments at the rank of full professor must also receive the approval of the Senior APT Committee. The appropriate Committee may request that the APT Chair supervise the collection of material required to conduct their deliberations. Other procedures for appointments are governed by existing university policy.

B. **Annual Informal Assessments.**

1. Following appropriate consultation with APT committee, the Department Chair shall independently provide each assistant professor and each untenured associate professor annually with an informal assessment of his or her progress. With specific reference to teaching and advisement; research, scholarship, and creative activity; and service, the Department Chair should advise tenure-track faculty of

the prevailing standards of quality and of the most effective ways to demonstrate that they meet the standards.

2. Informal assessments by the Department Chair are purely advisory to the faculty member and do not assure a favorable tenure and/or promotion decision. Informal assessments shall be based in large part on a file constructed for purposes of the assessment by the faculty member to be assessed. The file may contain any material that the faculty member believes pertinent to the assessment, but it must contain at least the following: the faculty member's *curriculum vitae*, copies of all published research, copies of course syllabi representative of the faculty member's teaching assignments in the department, and summary reports of teaching evaluations for each undergraduate and graduate course taught during the period assessed.
3. At the discretion of the Department Chair, one or more faculty members may be asked to provide a written report of the teaching of the faculty member based in part on one or more classroom visits. These visits shall be at times deemed convenient by the faculty member being assessed. The faculty member being assessed may, at his/her discretion, provide in advance of each classroom visit whatever material he or she deems useful to the reporters' ability to understand the class visited.
4. The faculty member being assessed shall be given a copy of the annual informal assessment and shall have the right to respond in writing. Any such response shall be submitted to the Department Chair within one week of the faculty member's receipt of the assessment. The Department Chair shall report to the APT Committee the contents of each annual informal assessment in a timely fashion. The APT Committee shall have the right to respond in writing to any annual informal assessment. Any such response shall be submitted to the Department Chair within two weeks of the APT Committee's receipt of the Department Chair's report of that assessment. Each annual informal assessment shall be included in the faculty member's personnel file with any material attached as requested by the faculty member or the APT Committee. Annual assessments are separate from the tenure review process, but shall become a part of the information collected for the tenure review.

C. Formal Intermediate Reviews

1. Assistant Professors. The APT Committee shall perform a formal intermediate review of the progress toward meeting the criteria for tenure and promotion in the third year of an assistant professor's appointment. The purposes of these intermediate reviews are to assess the candidate's progress toward promotion, to inform the reviewed faculty member of that assessment, to inform the faculty members more senior to that faculty member who will eventually consider him or

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her for promotion of that assessment, and to advise the candidate and Department Chair of steps that should be taken to improve prospects for promotion. These intermediate reviews shall be structured exactly like reviews for tenure and/or promotion (as described in this document), with the exception that intermediate reviews will not involve external evaluations of the faculty member. The Department Chair shall consider this formal intermediate review in determining contract renewal.

2. Tenured Associate Professors. The APT Committee shall perform a formal intermediate review of the progress towards meeting the criteria for promotion to the rank of professor in the fifth year of a tenured associate professor's appointment and every five years thereafter. An associate professor may request an intermediate review earlier than the five years specified. The purposes of these intermediate reviews are to assess the candidate's progress toward promotion, to inform the reviewed faculty member of that assessment, to inform the faculty members more senior to that faculty member who will eventually consider him or her for promotion of that assessment, and to advise the candidate and Department Chair of steps that should be taken to improve prospects for promotion. These intermediate reviews shall be structured exactly like reviews for tenure and/or promotion (as described in this document), with the exception that intermediate reviews will not involve external evaluations of the faculty member.

3. The faculty member being assessed shall be given ~~a copy of the formal intermediate review~~ and the department chair's review letter and shall have the right to respond in writing. Any such response shall be submitted to the Department Chair within one week of the faculty member's receipt of the review. Each formal intermediate review shall be included in the faculty member's personnel file with any material attached as requested by the faculty member or the APT Committee. Formal intermediate reviews are separate from the tenure review process, but shall become a part of the information collected for the tenure review.

D. Tenure Review. Tenure reviews are governed by the APT documents of the System, the Campus, the College, and the Department.

E. Promotion Reviews. Promotion reviews are governed by the APT documents of the System, the Campus, the College, and the Department.

IV. Procedures for APT Committee Actions.

A. Calendar. The APT Chair shall provide annually to the faculty a timetable that will govern reappointment, promotion, and tenure reviews. In addition, the Department Chair shall notify each non-tenured tenure track faculty member and the members of the APT Committee of the review procedure appropriate for that faculty member during that year.

B. Initiation of Review. Responsibility for initiation of a tenure or promotion review shall rest

with the faculty member seeking tenure or promotion. The faculty member shall indicate in writing to the Department Chair and to the APT Chair the wish to be reviewed. Responsibility for initiation of review for initial appointment or annual review of untenured faculty members shall rest with the Department Chair.

C. Construction of the Review File.

1. The responsibility for establishing the Personal Statement advocating the faculty member's tenure and/or promotion and the review file rests with the faculty member to be reviewed. Assistance in this task by the mentor, the Department Chair and/or any member of the APT Committee is appropriate.
2. The review file shall be constructed in compliance with the University Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Procedures Manual effective at the beginning of the academic year in which a formal review for tenure and/or promotion will occur. To document the research record the file shall contain at minimum the *curriculum vitae* and copies of the most recent products of the faculty member's research. To document the teaching record the teaching portfolio shall contain at minimum the following: course syllabi from the faculty member's recent sections, reports of peer evaluation of teaching, and student evaluations from all undergraduate and graduate courses during the review period. See Appendix A for Teaching Portfolio guidelines.
3. When the file is complete, the faculty member being reviewed shall present it to the APT Chair with a letter stating that it is complete. The faculty member being reviewed may add material to the file after this time, but the addition must be accompanied by a dated letter stating the nature of the addition, the date it is forwarded for inclusion, and the reason for the addition. There is no requirement that decisions completed previous to the additional material be reconsidered by the Committee. Additional material may be added as a result of Committee deliberations only with a similar dated letter of addition from the committee to the candidate. All rights outlined under section V.A.6. of this document shall be respected in this procedure.

D. Preparation of the Summary Statement of Professional Achievements. The appropriate APT committee or a subcommittee of the appropriate committee shall prepare a concise Summary Statement of Professional Achievements. The Summary Statement shall place the professional achievements of the faculty member in scholarship, research, and artistic performance in the context of the broader discipline. It shall place the faculty member's professional achievements in teaching and in service in the context of the responsibilities of the unit, the college, the University, the discipline, and the greater community. If prepared by a subcommittee, the statement shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate parent committee. The statement shall be presented to the faculty member by Tenure delay text, if applicable, will be included in the Summary Statement of Professional Achievements, stating that the candidate shall not be disadvantaged because of the delay

with an explicit statement to evaluate the candidate's dossier as if it were completed in the ordinary period of review. The statement shall be presented to the faculty member by the Department Chair accompanied by a dated letter of notification. The faculty member under review shall have two weeks to respond, as specified in the Campus APT procedures. (The Summary Statement is not required on initial appointments, except those carrying tenure, nor on intermediate reviews.)

D-E. In addition to the Summary Statement of Professional Achievements, the APT Committee will provide the following documents to the candidate at least two weeks prior to Committee deliberation, for review and certification by dated signature: 1) Reputation of Publication Outlets; 2) Summary of Student Evaluations; 3) Record of Mentoring/Advising/Research Supervision; 4) Unit Promotion Criteria and Agreement for Modified Criteria, if applicable; 5) Sample Letter Requesting External Evaluation; and 6) Reports of Peer Evaluations of Teaching.

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E-F. Preparation of External Reviews. The faculty member under review shall prepare a list of at least six names of widely recognized authorities in his or her area of research. In addition, the faculty member may submit a list of no more than six authorities he or she wishes to exclude from those being consulted for the review. Independent of the candidate, the appropriate APT committee shall generate a list of at least six names of widely recognized authorities in the area of research. Based on these two lists, the appropriate APT Committee shall construct a list of no fewer than six external reviewers. At least three and no more than half of the names on this list shall appear on the faculty member's list, and the faculty member's wishes on names not to appear on the list shall be respected. The APT Chair is responsible for soliciting letters of recommendation from the selected reviewers. The APT Chair will consult with the APT Committee with regard to the issues such referees should address about the candidate. The APT Chair shall prepare the packet of material (excluding the cover letter) in consultation with the faculty member being reviewed. The APT Chair shall prepare the cover letter in consultation with the Spokesperson of the Committee. Tenure delay text, if applicable, will be included in reference letter request, stating that the faculty member shall not be disadvantaged because of the delay with an explicit statement to evaluate the candidate's dossier as if it were completed in the ordinary period of review. (External review is not required on initial appointments, except those carrying tenure, nor on annual reviews.)

F-G. Deliberations and Voting. The deliberations of the APT Committee are confidential. Deliberations of the APT Committee will give careful attention to evaluative statements and avoid discussion of departmental political conflicts or personality traits irrelevant to the APT criteria. Evaluation of candidates may not be based on factors such as a candidate's race, sex, sexual orientation or other protected personal characteristics. Any breach of these deliberative guidelines in this confidentiality is considered a breach of professional ethics and objections may be raised by any committee member at the decision meeting itself or in confidential consultation with the University's Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs. The APT Chair has the responsibility to ensure that discussion and evaluation of candidates are

fair and unbiased and to report perceptions of inappropriate discussions.

~~G.H.~~ Voting. Decisions regarding a candidate shall only be made at meetings called for this purpose. At least one week's notice shall be given for such meetings. After a vote regarding a candidate, another vote may be taken: (1) at the same meeting, by unanimous consent; or (2) upon request of one-third of the members of the appropriate APT Committee. The APT Chair shall schedule such a meeting and notify all members of the appropriate Committee. The last vote regarding a candidate shall constitute the deciding vote.

~~H.I.~~ Report of the Committee. The Committee shall deliver its recommendation (including the vote tally) in writing to the Department Chair at least one week prior to the deadline for submission to the Dean and the College Committee. The report shall explain the basis for the Committee's recommendation insofar as that basis has been made known in the discussions taking place among the members of the Committee. Dissenting positions may be prepared by any member of the committee and such dissents shall accompany the report through the rest of the APT process. The Department Chair will then prepare his or her recommendation.

~~H.J.~~ Reconciliation of Decisions by the Department Chair and APT Committee. If the Department Chair's recommendation regarding reappointment, promotion, or tenure disagrees with the recommendation of the appropriate APT Committee, the Department Chair will then notify the APT Committee of his or her final recommendation.

I. Report to the Candidate. In promotion and tenure reviews, the Department Chair, after receiving the Committee's recommendation, shall prepare, for the faculty member being reviewed, a letter announcing the recommendation and vote tally, and summarizing the basis for it. This letter will be reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Review Subcommittee. In addition, any member of the Committee requesting to review this letter or the Chair's letter concerning his or her recommendation in the review may do so. The letter will then be presented to the faculty member being reviewed. In this summary and during this discussion, the substance of the confidential letters from any outside referees may be summarized but not attributed.

J. Appeal of a Negative APT Decision. Following a negative departmental decision, there is no right of appeal beyond that specified in Campus and College documents.

V. Criteria for Actions. The qualifications for appointment, tenure, and promotion are the responsibility of each member of the APT committee. Each committee member is responsible for reaching such an evaluation within the criteria established by campus, college, and departmental APT documents. Candidates may request an agreement specifying modified criteria for tenure or promotion (e.g. if engaged in scholarship in multiple fields or that crosses boundaries of traditional disciplines). Agreement must be approved by the faculty and Chair of the first-level unit, the Dean, and the Provost. Departmental criteria include the following:

A. Research. The general criterion used to evaluate research shall be that the faculty member

be engaged continually and effectively in creative activities of high quality and significance. The department employs the following dimensions in evaluating a research program: significance, scope, originality, disciplinarity, quantity, and continuity, coherence, and progression.

- B. Teaching. The general criteria used to evaluate teaching relate to the substance and pedagogical practice of the faculty member's teaching. In the evaluation of teaching, opinions of students and colleagues shall be included. Teaching activities shall include: classroom instruction; curricular innovation and development; construction of instructional texts, manuals, and other materials; advising and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students; educational activities related to the discipline performed beyond the campus; supervision of student work at the undergraduate and graduate level; and participation in evaluation committees for student work. The department expects evidence of the following dimensions in the teaching portfolio: disciplinarity and contemporaneity of content, rational organization, clear and engaging communication, fair treatment of students, appropriate and rigorous assessment of student work. See Appendix A for Teaching Portfolio guidelines.
- C. Service. The general criterion used to evaluate service shall be that the faculty member be continuously and effectively engaged in activities of high quality for the benefit of the university, the discipline, and the wider intellectual and social community. The department employs the following dimensions in evaluating the service record: consistency, quantity, significance, and effectiveness.

VI. Rights and Responsibilities Governing the APT Process.

- A. Rights and Responsibilities of Faculty Members wishing to be reviewed.
1. Responsibility to become familiar with, and maintain knowledge of, the rules and regulations of the University, the Campus, the College, and the Department relating to the process.
 2. Responsibility to indicate to the APT Chair the desire to be reviewed. During the year of mandatory tenure review, this is a responsibility to notify the Chair of a wish to waive review.
 3. Responsibility, if an untenured faculty member, to select a mentor in consultation with the Department Chair.
 4. Responsibility, in consultation with the APT Chair and other members of the APT Committee, to prepare the Personal Statement, a Teaching Portfolio, and the initial review file in the form required by the University Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Procedures Manual in effect at the beginning of the academic year in which the review will occur. Right to notification of deadlines for submitting and required content in material for review.

5. Right to notification at the earliest possible time of changes in the programmatic needs of the unit or the University that might have a bearing on the faculty member's prospects for tenure.
6. Right to fair and impartial review without arbitrary or capricious decision.
7. Right to know all faculty participating in the Review committee.
8. Right to have access to, and attach comment or dissent to, all material contained in the review file except for those items declared confidential. Confidential material includes external reviews, evaluative reports of the Committee and the Department Chair, and any other evaluations in which confidentiality has been assured to the evaluator. In the case of confidential information, the faculty member has the right to a summary of the contents without attribution of the contents, and the right to attach comment or dissent to such summaries.
9. Right to speedy notification of actions on their application as quickly as practical after the appropriate date of release of that information to the reviewed faculty member.

B. Rights and Responsibilities of Members of the APT Committee.

1. Responsibility to become familiar with the rules and regulations of the University, the Campus, the College, and the Department relating to the process.
2. Responsibility to prepare thoroughly for the deliberations of the committee and to participate fully.
- ~~2-3.~~ Responsibility to receive an annual formal charge from the ARHU Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs.
4. Responsibility to impose the highest standards of quality, to ensure that all candidates receive fair and impartial treatment, and for maintaining the integrity and the confidentiality of the review and recommendation process. Right to confidentiality in deliberations and in vote on APT matters.
- ~~3-5.~~ Responsibility (APT Chair) to ensure that discussion and evaluation of candidates are fair and unbiased and to report perceptions of inappropriate discussions.
- ~~4-6.~~ Responsibility to respect the confidentiality of other committee members, and all who have been assured confidentiality when the committee requested their judgment.
- ~~5-7.~~ Right of access to the entirety of review files including all confidential material forwarded to a second level of review.

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C. Rights and Responsibilities of the Department Chair.

1. Responsibility to provide all new tenure track faculty with these procedures and other policies of the university named herein. This includes notifying faculty of deadlines and the material required for review.
2. Responsibility to offer and provide assistance to faculty members wishing to be reviewed in assembling review files.
3. Responsibility to work with the APT Committee and the APT Chair to assemble relevant information for the APT review.
4. Right to confidentiality of the Chair's report (that is, the report directed to the second level review). Responsibility to ensure the confidentiality of members of the review committee and all others to whom confidentiality has been assured.

VII. Amendment of Procedures. Changes to this document may be initiated by any member of the Department faculty through submission to the APT Chair. Changes shall be referred to the APT Committee for its review. The Committee shall consider the changes at a meeting held at least a week after submission of the proposed changes to the Committee, but within three months of submission of the proposed changes to the Chair. Upon approval by a majority of the Committee, changes shall be forwarded to the Departmental Assembly for decision at its next meeting. Proposed changes must, however, be circulated to all members of the Departmental Assembly at least one week prior to the vote. Changes shall be passed upon majority vote of the Departmental Assembly. Changes become effective for faculty members who are employed the semester following their approval, and others who agree to be evaluated by these changes.

- Adopted: February 28, 1992
- Amended: December 19, 1992; April 7, 2000; May 6, 2005; October 3, 2008; September 10, 2010; April 6, 2012

Department of Communication

Assembly Minutes

November 6, 2015

Those in attendance: E. Toth (Chair), A. Wolvin, M. Murray-Yang, R. Chang, E. Sommerfeldt, N. Joyce, J. Lu, K. Maddux, L. Anderson, S. Khamis, L. Waks, A. Seate-Atwell and A. Westcott-Baker.

- I. Approval of the Agenda on motion of E. Sommerfeldt and second of S. Khamis.
- II. Approval of the minutes of the October 2, 2015 meeting on motion of K. Maddux and second of A. Westcott-Baker.
- III. Proposal on Ad Hoc Committee on Goals/ Outcomes for Re-envisioning Undergraduate Communication Major was approved unanimously (see attached).
- IV. K. Maddux report that the three graduate area mission statements for recruiting and had been uploaded in the Graduate School's application materials and would be the basis of the department's materials going forward (see attached).
- V. Policy proposal for remote participation in graduate student defenses was approved unanimously on motion of the Graduate Studies committee (see attached).
- VI. Nomination of Professor Sarah Oates for Affiliate Faculty Status was approved on motion of the Faculty Advisory Committee. E. Toth will formally invite her to accept the department's affiliate status.
- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Chang

Goal

The goal of the undergraduate major in Communication is to educate students in Communication theories, research methods, and skills that will serve them in their personal, academic, professional, and civic lives.

Outcomes

To that end, the undergraduate major in Communication has four primary outcomes:
--Our students will be able to explain, synthesize, apply, and critique communication theories and research findings.

--Our students will develop facility with a range of basic and applied communication research skills.

--Our students will be prepared to participate responsibly in diverse, global communities.

Public Relations

The Public Relations area is dedicated to the study of strategic communication for organizational and societal effectiveness and the understanding of publics. The pioneer of graduate study in public relations, the area is committed to theory-based examination of publics, organizations, and relational communication in a variety of forms and contexts.

Public relations faculty are leading experts in and support diverse methodological approaches to the studies of public relations management, publics and audiences, civil society, risk and crisis communication, health communication, global communication, and organizational communication. Students work with their advisors and advisory committees to develop individualized programs of study that provide the opportunity for mastering their own areas of specialization within the broader context of public relations.

Communication Science

The Communication Science area is dedicated to research and teaching in communication messages, processes, and effects using statistical and social-scientific methods. Approaches include experimentation, survey research, quantitative content analysis, and physiological measurement.

Graduate students in the Communication Science area typically focus on the following topics: health and risk communication, intergroup and intercultural communication, interpersonal communication, mediated communication, and persuasion. Students work with their academic advisor and advisory committee to develop an individualized program of study that provides the opportunity for mastering their own area of specialization within the broader context of communication science.

Rhetoric & Political Culture

The area of Rhetoric & Political Culture is dedicated to the critical analysis of public discourse in historical and political contexts. Our faculty and graduate students produce scholarship at the intersections of criticism, history, and theory. The study of rhetoric and political culture draws especially on local resources that include a wide array of historical archives, grassroots activism, and political institutions based in the Washington, D.C., area.

Our research and course work cluster around the historical and theoretical study of political ideas; social movements, publics, and counterpublics; and presidential, legislative, and judicial politics. We focus our critical attention on such texts as oratory, visual images, embodied protests, popular culture, news coverage, judicial decisions, monuments and memorials, and public deliberation.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO BE ADDED TO THE PHD HANDBOOK:

Under section II, a new letter H:

H. Faculty Participation in Oral Examination

1. All faculty members of the Committee should make every attempt to attend graduate student defense meetings in person.
2. All instances of remote participation must be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee. The graduate student must make a request, in writing, to the Graduate Studies Committee at least three weeks before the scheduled oral defense date.
3. Only one member of any committee may participate remotely in a given meeting. Both the student and the advisor (or at least one advisor in the case of co-advisors) must participate in person.
4. The meeting must be equipped with at least two channels for remote participation (e.g. Skype and telephone).
5. In considering these requests, the committee will consider (1) residence or extended sabbatical outside the DC metro area, (2) health concerns, and (3) other unforeseen circumstances as sound reasons for remote participation.

Under section III: G, add a new 3:

3. Remote participation in dissertation prospectus meetings will be governed by the same rules specified in section II: H above.

Under section III: J, add a new 3:

3. Remote participation in dissertation examination meetings will be governed by the rules specified in the Graduate Catalog.

Department of Communication

Assembly Minutes

February 5, 2016

Those in attendance: S. Parry-Giles, Chair, J. Lu, L. Aldoory, L. Anderson, E. Sommerfeldt, B. Fisher Liu, J. Gowin, N. Joyce, K. Maddux, A. Atwell Seate, E. Toth, M. Murray Yang, L. Waks, A. Wolvin

- I. Approval of the Agenda on motion of E. Toth and seconded by E. Sommerfeldt.
- II. Approval of the minutes of the November 11, 2015 meeting on motion of E. Toth and seconded by E. Sommerfeldt.
- III. Announcements
 1. S. Parry-Giles announced that emails will be transferred from Outlook to Google.
 2. S. Parry-Giles reported on next year's theme of racial diversity and encouraged instructors to structure classes around it.
 3. S. Parry-Giles reported that faculty may request TA support when applying for larger grants; these requests should be made to the chair in the semester before the work would be completed.
- IV. Reports
 1. Reports on Departmental Changes
 - i. S. Parry-Giles introduced L. Aldoory as the new Associate Chair assigned to working on grants and development.
 - ii. The new GSIT Director is scheduled to arrive on February 25, 2016 (Ms. Esperanza Pombo).
 - iii. The April departmental assembly meeting is shifted to April 8th, along with a colloquium.
 - iv. S. Parry-Giles reported on the status of the search for the rhetoric and political culture position.
 2. Report of the Graduate Committee
 - i. B. Fisher Liu reported on issues of graduate student diversity, retention, and admittance.
 - ii. B. Fisher Liu addressed the PhD Open House on February 25 and 26 to meet and recruit graduate students.
- V. Discussion Items
 1. Departmental Climate
 2. Emergency Preparedness Draft
 3. Construction Update
- VI. Action Items
 1. The motion from the Graduate Studies Committee was approved in support of the new Graduate Certificate in Professional Communication in English Fluency Enhancement.

VII. Additional Announcements

1. The Spring commencement will be held on May 19, 2016 at 11:30 am at the Xfinity Center.
2. E. Toth reported that a donation was received from the B. J. Altschul estate.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.

Meeting of the Graduate Faculty

- I. The following applicants were nominated for adjunct faculty status with the GSIT program: Brigitte Andréassier, Mariono DeAnton, Hans Fenstermacher, Jon Ritzdorf, Miriam Stanicic, Carol Valendia, Jean Vandebosh, and Eva Vilarrubi. E. Sommerfeldt moved approval of their nomination and L. Anderson seconded the motion. All were approved by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tamara Anthony

Department of Communication

Assembly Minutes

March 4, 2016

Those in attendance: S. Parry-Giles, Chair, A. Atwell Seate, E. Sommerfeldt, J. Lu, K. Maddux, L. Waks, M. Murray Yang, N. Joyce, X. Nan

- I. Approval of the agenda on motion by E. Sommerfeldt; seconded by X. Nan.
- II. Approval of the minutes on motion by N. Joyce; seconded by E. Sommerfeldt.
- III. Announcements:
 - A. S. Parry-Giles announced that the Provost approved the new spousal hire in rhetoric for Dr. Damien Pfister.
 - B. S. Parry-Giles announced that merit pay is likely for FY17; the salary advisory committee will meet.
 - C. S. Parry-Giles announced the approval by the college of the new GCPC program.
- IV. Reports
 - A. S. Parry-Giles reported that the Provost has decided to discontinue Lyterati due to software problems. A new program will be selected to replace this system.
 - B. S. Parry-Giles reported that the Provost is planning to launch an opportunity hire program for associate and full professor positions for FY 2017; the program is targeting African Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans.
 - C. S. Parry-Giles reported that the departments may be expected to assume the costs associated with employee fringe benefits—an expense handled by the State of Maryland previously. Departments will learn about the costs of fringe benefits in FY17.
- V. Discussion
 - A. The assembly discussed the climate survey, its potential impact, and its possible implications. S. Parry-Giles discussed the potential for the survey to launch a departmental research project that could afford future avenues of research across the areas and across the department into the problems and solutions to its own climate issues.
 - B. K. Maddux reported on the success of the open house with 12 students admitted to the program.
 - C. K. Maddux announced that the student annual review applications are now available online-only.
 - D. K. Maddux discussed graduate student appreciation week.
 - E. S. Parry-Giles reported on plans for a Health Communication certificate, which UM's School of Public Health is similarly pursuing.
- VI. Undergraduate Re-Envisioning
 - A. E. Sommerfeldt, N. Joyce, and L. Waks reported on possible revisions to the undergraduate curriculum. Another working group was formed with L. Waks, A. Atwell Seate, M. Murray Yang, and J. Lu.

VII. Announcements

- A. The Spring commencement will be held on May 19, 2016 at 11:30 am in the Xfinity Center.
- B. A graduation reception will be held for graduating Communication seniors on May 3 from 4-7pm at the Riggs Alumni Center. Faculty members are encouraged to attend.

Meeting is adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tamara Anthony

Department of Communication
Assembly Minutes
May 6, 2016

Those in attendance: S. Parry-Giles, Chair, A. Wolvin, B. Liu, E. Sommerfeldt, E. Toth, J. Gowin, K. Maddux, L. Aldoory, L. Anderson, L. Waks, N. Joyce, S. Khamis, T. Parry-Giles, X. Nan, Y. Slosarski

- I. Approval of the agenda on motion by E. Toth; seconded by S. Khamis.
- II. Approval of the minutes on motion by E. Toth; seconded by B. Liu.
- III. Reports:
 - A. S. Parry-Giles announced the appointment of two new co-graduate directors: X. Nan (Admissions) and L. Aldoory (Departmental Graduate Students).
 - B. S. Parry-Giles reported on the importance of filling out the Gallup UMD Thriving Workplace Survey.
 - C. S. Parry-Giles reported on the projected merit money increase of 2.5 percent and the Dean's contribution to salary compression for tenure-track faculty.
 - D. S. Parry-Giles announced the move of computers from the CHRC to the graduate student offices.
 - E. S. Parry-Giles reported on UM's conflict of interest policy with external funding proposals.
 - F. S. Parry-Giles reported that Lyterati will be replaced by a new academic reporting system yet to be announced.
 - G. S. Parry-Giles reported on the FY17 request to hire new faculty in Health Communication and Public Relations.
 - H. S. Parry-Giles introduced the idea of using the Fall Colloquium Series to address workplace climate issues.
 - I. X. Nan reported on the FAC Committee on Climate Survey, including the notification that the report is available in the COMM office for viewing. The ad hoc committee that includes a staff member, a graduate student member, and faculty members will meet before the end of the semester to finalize the report.
 - J. A. Wolvin briefed the assembly on updates to the OCP, including the resignation of R. Kirby-Straker.
- IV. Action Items:
 - A. The motion to elect a new faculty senator for the faculty senate FY17 passes with the commitment split between B. Liu (Fall Semester) and N. Joyce (Spring Semester), with the possibility that E. Sommerfeldt would continue as faculty senator in the fall in place of B. Liu should Liu be elected to another committee.
 - B. K. Maddux issued a motion to pass the following Proposed Amendments to the *University of Maryland Department of Communication Policies and Procedures 2015 Manual* (see below). The motion was seconded by N. Joyce. The motion passes with the following amendment:
 - i. In 2.05 *Graduate Studies Committee (membership)* adds "and foundation" in the third line of "Methods and Foundations Requirement."
 - ii. In 2.06 *Undergraduate Studies Committee (membership)*, no amendment.
 - C. The motion by K. Maddux to pass the Proposed Amendments to the *Ph.D. Handbook* and seconded by L. Aldoory (see below). The motion passes with the following amendments:

- i. In *Proposed Amendments 2.05a* shall now read "Membership: The Director of Graduate Studies (as chair) plus at least two faculty members and one graduate student member appointed by the department chair from a slate of candidates provided by the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Association of Communication Graduate Students at Maryland (COMM Grads). At least two faculty members shall be members of the Graduate Faculty. The Ph.D. student members shall be excluded from any conversations related to specific graduate students or prospective students, and shall not have a vote on those matters."

V. Discussion Items

- A. K. Maddux led a discussion on the need for standardizing M.A. degree criteria for applicants entering the M.A. to Ph.D. track.

VI. Announcements

- A. S. Parry-Giles announced that the Department Picnic will be held on May 13th at 12:00 pm.
- B. S. Parry-Giles announced that Departmental Graduation will be held on May 19th at 11:30 am at the Xfinity Center.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tamara Anthony

In Section IA1c:

Replace this existing language:

Methods and Foundations Requirement. 12 credits. Students must complete 6 credits through classroom instruction, in one of the following sequences:

- 1) *Quantitative*: COMM 702 and COMM 703. (Prerequisites to COMM 702 such as COMM 600 cannot be used to satisfy the 12-hour requirement. Additional coursework may be required depending upon preparation in statistics.)
- 2) *Historical/Critical*: COMM 711 and COMM 712.
- 3) *Qualitative*: COMM 714 and COMM 715.
- 4) 6 additional credits in methods/foundations credits within or outside department.

With this substitute language:

Methods and Foundations Requirement. 12 credits.

- 1) *Quantitative*: COMM 600, plus nine additional credits in quantitative methods and/or statistics.
- 2) *Historical/Critical*: COMM 711 and COMM 712, plus six additional credits in methods and foundations.
- 3) *Qualitative*: COMM 714 and COMM 715, plus six additional credits in methods.

Proposal From COMMGrads

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1

Section 2.06 Undergraduate Studies Committee

(a) Membership: The Director of Undergraduate Studies (as chair) plus at least two faculty members (of which at least one shall be a tenure-track faculty member), one non-voting graduate student, and one non-voting undergraduate student member. All but the Director of Undergraduate Studies shall be appointed by the department chair from a slate of candidates provided by the Faculty Advisory Committee.

Proposed change underlined and in bold:

Section 2.06 Undergraduate Studies Committee

(a) Membership: The Director of Undergraduate Studies (as chair) plus at least two faculty members (of which at least one shall be a tenure-track faculty member), **one graduate student**, and one non-voting undergraduate student member. All but the Director of Undergraduate Studies shall be appointed by the department chair from a slate of candidates provided by the Faculty Advisory Committee **and the Association of Communication Graduate Students at Maryland (COMM Grads)**.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2

Section 2.05 Graduate Studies Committee

(a) Membership: The Director of Graduate Studies (as chair) plus at least two faculty members and one non-voting graduate student member appointed by the department chair from a slate of candidates provided by the Faculty Advisory Committee. At least two faculty members shall be members of the Graduate Faculty.

Proposed change underlined and in bold:

Section 2.05 Graduate Studies Committee

(a) Membership: The Director of Graduate Studies (as chair) plus at least two faculty members and **one graduate student** member appointed by the department chair from a slate of candidates provided by the Faculty Advisory Committee **and the Association of Communication Graduate Students at Maryland (COMM Grads)**. At least two faculty members shall be members of the Graduate Faculty. **The Ph.D. student member shall not participate in any conversations related to specific graduate students or prospective students, nor shall they have a vote on those matters.**