

14 October ROMS Faculty Meeting

Curricular changes

Amy Chambless discussed the new courses that have been approved this year and the curricular changes that were made.

IDEAs in Action curriculum implementation has been postponed to Fall 2022, meaning we have an extra year to prepare. Research and Discovery and High Impact courses are being prioritized, but focus-capacity courses can still be submitted by 4 October of this year.

For a Research and Discovery course, 1/3 of the course should be a research-oriented. R&D proposals have been rejected if the research component isn't large enough and/or if research is assigned but not taught.

Amy is available for resources and advice about proposing a R&D course.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Kristine Taylor presented some introductory slides, beginning with the goals of this committee and the idea of a "virtual hallway" to meet and talk around a chosen topic and some short readings. The first meeting will be October 20. Stay tuned for the invitation.

Jessica Tanner presented some inclusive online keywords: care, community, trust, flexibility, structure, accessibility, trauma awareness; some inclusive teaching experts, i.e. Jesse Strommel; and some practical suggestions (check-in with students regularly; consider accessibility; rename yourself on Zoom to include your pronouns; cautions against proctoring software; don't require students to share details to justify absences/late work).

Heather Knorr added some more tips and suggestions (use google docs for collective class notes; zoom white board; walk through how to make reservation with peer tutors on a shared screen).

There was an open discussion about this: ideas for creating community among students; peer assessment and un-grading (radical pedagogy); allow and foster side-discussions for learning on the edges and beyond course content and curriculum; teaching on election day.

Graduate Admissions

Carmen Hsu reported that the graduate school has proposed a 2-phase approach for revising GRE requirement and that each language section should have discussed how this will impact their own admissions. As a department, we will vote on whether to opt-out of the GRE requirement for next admissions cycle (not this fall, Phase 1, but the next fall, Phase 2).

Phase 1 (AY 2020-21) requirements have already been decided.

Phase 2 (AY 2021-22): The university has opened a 5-year pilot program where GRE is not required and each program will decide to opt-in if they wish to continue to use it. Are we ready to drop the GRE scores in graduate admissions?

There was an open discussion about this, hearing various opinions about the GRE and in particular the disadvantages of the GRE for our department (barriers for low-income applicants, international applicants).

A consensus was quickly reached that we should remove the GRE requirement as a department for Phase 2. But it was also agreed that more discussions should be held about how to evaluate candidates.

Admissions next year

We have decided that we can admit new students but in smaller numbers than we are used to.

Nominating Distinguished Professors, Process

This will be discussed at the next faculty meeting, led by Hassan Melehy.

Saying Goodbye and Congratulations to Logan

Many thank yous and warm wishes to Logan for his next position.

Our Transition Strategy

The process has already begun to post the department manager position. All hires take longer right now because of university budget restrictions. There is a 1-2 month interim period and several people will help us out: Sheena and Heather in the main office; Shavon and Nefi; + backup from Marie Fholer, an experienced department manager who is currently in the Dean's Office. Marie introduced herself to us today in the meeting.

Serenella Iovino asked about the hiring committee for Logan's replacement. It will include Nefi López-Chen, a graduate student representative, and some members of the executive committee.