ROMS Faculty Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

3:30 - Review and vote on the [Study Abroad teaching assignment policy](https://romsnet.web.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14664/2024/02/Study-Abroad-Teaching-Assignment-Policy-Feb-20-2024.docx) that Dorothea presented in February (Pello)

* Suggestion: contact Summer School administrator to make sure there is not overlap between summer teaching in Chapel Hill and abroad
* Concern about faculty ownership of programs who have designed them
* Committee will take more time to consider these questions and contextualize some of the decisions for the April meeting

3:45 - Initial discussion of UNC's upcoming Workload Policy and guidelines for implementation in ROMS

* Look at [Faculty Workload Policy.pdf](https://adminliveunc.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/r/sites/romlangfac/Shared%20Documents/Faculty%20Workload%20Policy.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=NexRdU) together.
* Note that this is a new requirement for all campuses in the UNC System.
* The College is working on a policy for how workload adjustments would work: i.e., when a service assignment would qualify a person to do less teaching. Look together at the draft College policy circulated today.
* Our task is to do the part highlighted in yellow: “establish an expected threshold…”
* This will be used in some form of annual check-in process. What that will look like is TBD and will be determined by the College.
* Remember that this annual review of workload is different from a promotion or reappointment review. It’s only looking at whether the workload is met or not met. So we’re aiming to establish the **minimum** threshold for adequate work in a one-year timeframe.
* Look together at the [Template Draft ROMS workload guidance March 2024.docx](https://adminliveunc.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/r/sites/romlangfac/Shared%20Documents/Template%20Draft%20ROMS%20workload%20guidance%20March%202024.docx?d=w6f4213a213ba4e0ab801676b948e096c&csf=1&web=1&e=Ty3Lpz) of what might constitute minimum expected thresholds for teaching, research, and service in our department under this new policy.
* Discuss and revise the draft together with plan to do any fine-tuning and vote in April. This timeline will also allow us to ask the College about any questions that arise in this discussion.
* The College has assured that the teaching load will not be changed, research is being done to understand what the 24 credit hour entails
* Our document is due by the end of the semester. Collecting feedback from ROMS faculty today to do research in order to vote during the April meeting. Ideally, we will receive feedback from the College.
* Start date would be January 2025.
* Changing percentage expectations for exceptional cases would have to be approved at the College level.
* Language in teaching section is standardized because it reflects appointment letters.
* Under “Expectations for Teaching”: emphasis on “wishing to pursue a thesis or other independent research topic”- if no student wishes to pursue those things, then expectations are fulfilled.
* Ellen will clean these up, will share a new version to review asynchronously, and we vote during the April meeting.

4:10 - Quick updates and previews about faculty searches

* Spanish TAP searches going on now. We’ll need a vote first week of April. May be asynchronous.
* Distinguished Professor negotiations ongoing.
* WGST is considering a faculty member who would have a joint appointment in ROMS. If the vote in WGST is successful, we will also need to vote on the joint appointment. A CV and recorded job talk will be available.

4:15 - Reminders and recommendations about obtaining and using funding for your professional travel, professional development, and events

* Before you spend money, please make sure that you have money. Please talk to Lola to determine whether you have funds.
* Remember that you can apply for conference travel funds from CAS. You can apply for Faculty Development funds from ROMS. Instructions on the Intranet. Please apply before you spend!
* The faculty searches this year have placed an extra burden on our limited funds. Let’s be mindful of spending.
* In particular, when going out for meals with guest speakers, etc., please be mindful and careful around alcohol purchases especially. Consider the “News & Observer test.”
* We are all partners in stewarding our funds.

Last announcements/reminders

* Registration for Fall is starting. Please help each other by promoting classes to your students.
* We’re starting to put together the newsletter for Spring/Summer. Ideas to Recognition Committee members or to Ellen. High-quality photos are especially welcome.
* If you need to borrow one of the Department cards, please contact Lola. There will be a form to fill out.
* Deadline to send ROMS DEI Committee grant applications is next Wednesday. Send applications to Sean Matharoo.
* Commencement: May 11 at 2:00pm in the Friday Center. More information coming in the coming weeks.