

Minutes Alvarez College of Business Faculty Forum

Friday April 29, 2022 1:00PM via ZOOM

Attending: Thomas Thomson, Lisa Ho, Jerry Keating, Elaine Sanders, Pamela Smith, Poonam Khanna, Richard Sibbersen, Karan Bhanot, Anuradha Roy, Jonathon Clark, Albert Huang, Hamid Beladi, Harrison Liu, Heather Staples, David Bojanic, Sharad Asthana, Brian Wolfe, Tom Cannon, Catalina Zarate, Rita Mitra, Da-Hsiang Lien, Xiaolu Zhang, Minghe Sun, Bill Pugh, Karen Williams, Richard Gretz, Dan Hollas, Lisa Montoya, Zhongxia Ye, Linda Shepherd, Tony Ciochetti, Gianluca Zanella, Dan Sass, Jihye Jung, Min Wang, Kai Xu, Dennis Lopez, John Wald, B Adhikari, Jeff Boone, Benjamin Anderson, Terri Davis, Amir Karimi, Ashwin Malshe, Juan Mao, anthony Rios, Allen Zhang, Jonathon Clark, Kefeng Xu, Haryi Arslan, Hongyi Zhu, Arkajyoti Roy, Wenbo Wu, Manuel Sanchez, Ray Teske, Zijun Wang, Patrick Lee, Mark Leung, Nicole Beebe, Huy Le, John Toohey, Philip Menard, Eric Bachura, Eryka Robinson, Francisco Marquez, Samson Alva, Darniet Jennings, Daniel Davied, Ian Burres, Ivalina Kalcheva, Onur Bayar, Andrea Marquez, Isil Koyunco, Rohit Valecha, Violet Xu, H.R. Rao, Aimee Laun, Linda Vaello, Rosa Garza Girdy, Michael McDonald, Raymond Choo, Lisa Montoya, Wend Gratereaux, Steward Miller, Deepa Chandrasekaran, Rajan Kadapakkam, Jennifer Yin, Binay Adhikari, Bruce Rudy, Pepe Chang, Glenn Dietrich, Deborah Pendarvis, Ram Tripathi

Agenda:

1. Call to Order – Dr. Thomas Thomson called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
2. Review and Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2021 meeting – a motion was made by Jerry Keating and seconded by Anuradha Roy to approve the minutes. The motion passed.
3. Interim Dean Report (Dr. Pamela Smith)
 - a. Rankings – the MS in Statistics and Data Science was ranked #79 by US News and World Report; CEO Magazine ranked The Executive MBA #8; CEO Magazine ranked the MBA as a Tier 1 MBA Program.
 - b. Fundraising Efforts – The recent Alvarez Research Challenge raised \$700,000.00 in donations - Charlie and Ann Bohl Deacon Research Excellence Endowment; Walter M. Embrey Jr. Research Excellence Endowment; Don and Lou Celia Frost Family Endowed Graduate Fellowship; Kadapakkam Family Fund Endowment; Nancy and Frank Kudla Endowed Fellowship in Cyber Security
 - c. Giving Day - \$48,633 raised by 174 donors – the funds will be used to support the college's student success programs.
 - d. CREW Scholars Program received a \$100,000.00 endowment from Embrey.
 - e. Alvarez Fellows Update – the first class of fellows includes Fernando Alvarez, Eishaday Dandena, and Victor Feagins. The Spring 2022 class includes Shawn Marchand and Luis Nino.
 - f. Congratulations to Dr. Mark Leung for receiving the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Faculty Award this year for his work with our students!
 - g. AACSB Accreditation report – our recent visit was very successful – there was only one item the college will need to address before the next visit, which is to tighten up our Assurance of Learning efforts. Heather Staples, Director of AOL Initiatives, reported we plan to continue to collect data in classes, work with AOL coordinators from each department, continue to improve, and to close the gap.

- h. Enrollment Trends – A review of enrollment trends shows that both undergraduate and graduate enrollment rose. In particular, the Online Cyber and the MS Finance programs had very large increases (both 41%). Although the university showed a decrease in credit hours, the college had a 19% increase in student credit hours from Summer 2020-2021 to Summer 2021-2022. Only the College of Science and the College of Business showed increases. We are the second largest contributor of credit hours.
- i. School of Data Science Update – The SDS building is projected to open January 2023 and the ACOB will have a strong presence – graduate programs and affiliated faculty from the MS Data Analytics, MS Statistics and Data Science, and PhD Applied Statistics will be housed there.
- j. Pamela thanked the college for the opportunity to serve as interim dean and noted we have accomplished many excellent things for the college.
4. Undergraduate Programs Committee Report (Maho Sonmez) – no report
5. Brief Presentation with Q&A from incoming Dean Jonathon Halbesleben – Dan Sass introduced incoming Dean Jonathon Halbesleben. The dean's comments included:
- a. Priorities will include enhancing student outcomes, building our research agenda, building our relationships with the business community.
 - b. A top focus will be to learn about the college; the dean plans to conduct group listening sessions as well as individual meetings with faculty and staff.
 - c. The dean will also be spending time with alumni and business leaders to find ways to increase success and bring in more resources to the college.
 - d. The plan is to stabilize some things in the college – keep up the positive momentum, get permanent leadership in place, determine internal and external searches to fill interim department chair positions.
 - e. Update guidelines for annual review, P & T processes; college leadership will be reaching out to ensure faculty have a strong voice in developing new guidelines.
 - f. Questions were entertained and everyone is looking forward to Dean Halbesleben joining us.
6. Election of Forum Officers for 2022-2023 Academic Year (Dr. Daniel Sass)
- In accordance with the by-laws, elections will be held at the fall faculty forum and were deferred until then.
7. New Business – no new business
8. Adjourn – a motion to adjourn was made by John Wald and seconded by Jerry Keating. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Alvarez College of Business Graduate Faculty Forum

Friday April 29, 2022 via ZOOM

Agenda:

1. Call to Order - Dr. Elaine Sanders called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm
2. Intro of new Assistant Dean – Graduate studies – (Dr. Juan Manuel Sanchez)

Manuel Sanchez thanked Dan Davied for all the work he has done as Assistant Dean in the past. Change brings new opportunity and we are happy to welcome Francisco Marquez as new Assistant Dean. Remarks from Francisco – he is happy to have the opportunity to join the ACOB and grateful for the warm welcome, ideas and support he has received from everyone. Francisco has been in higher education for over 20 years, supporting value added programs at the college level. His goals are to create experiences for our graduate students to facilitate their success and to make connections with other offices in the college and university, as well as other universities and companies that will help us in the achievement of these goals.

3. Update on admissions process – (Francisco Marquez)

Francisco provided an overview of the Graduate Admissions Process changes. The old process was not controlled by the college but was controlled by student enrollment management. One aim is to relieve some of the burden to the admissions committees of the applicant review process by implementing a robust application process for the students and the faculty. Process changes are driven by 1) the mandate set by President Eighmy to increase graduate enrollment; 2) reorganization at the university level is driving alignment of college admissions structure to the new university structure. The process at the university level has been restructured to address communication gaps and long times for acceptance. The college will now be the point of contact for the applicants to improve communication and reduce wait times. Goals of the update include:

- Engage prospective students at an earlier stage
- Follow up activities to increase conversion rates of applicant-admitted-enrolled students
- Accelerate the flow of the applicant through the funnel
- Simplify review process providing detailed application information to committee members to make decisions, reducing the administrative workload of graduate faculty committee members, GARs, and program directors

4. Enrollment trends (Masters, PhD) – (Francisco Marquez)

Slides showing trends in ACOB Master's Enrollment were shown - with the exception of Fall 2018, enrollment since 2016 has shown strong growth with 29.1% growth from 2019 to 2020, and 9.98% growth from 2020 to 2021. The 5 year graduation rate is holding steady and is outpacing the overall university 5 year graduation rate. We hope to show improvement in mean years to degree by providing a lot of professional development to students. The more connectivity we have with students the more engaged they are which should lead to increased graduation.

5. PhD Graduate Placements – (Dr. Juan Manuel Sanchez)

Recent placements are a testament to all of the work the faculty has invested in the PhD students – most are going to good placements at AACSB universities which is one of the KPIs for the college and university. There were 16 graduates in 2020, 8 in 2021 and 12 in 2022. Examples of placements include the University of San Diego, Kansas State University, Bryant University, Belmont University, University of Montana, University of Rochester, King Saud University, Trinity University, and Northeastern University.

6. NRUF review comments – (Dr. Juan Manuel Sanchez)

The Review Committee with members from UCLA and Stanford conducted a very comprehensive review in February and we received a positive assessment. We also received some excellent feedback on how we are preparing our students –

comparable to other AAU universities. The last review occurred about a month ago and now is at the coordinating board. All signals are positive that we will receive a favorable review. Thanks to all involved in putting together the packet and participating in the review!

7. Vote on the Graduate Catalog revisions (Dr. Elaine Sanders)

Elaine explained that in the past, graduate catalogue revisions have gone through the department program committees first and then gone to a vote of the graduate faculty at the college level. A change in workflow due to the Course Leaf system necessitated a change in our approval process – after the revisions are approved by the department, a representative from the department goes into Course Leaf and enters the changes, which are then reviewed by the appropriate people. A missing step in Course Leaf is how to obtain the ACOB graduate faculty vote, so the question became how to get the proposed changes to the college faculty to vote and approved in Course Leaf. It was noted that the Summary of Changes Form that we utilized in the past is no longer a part of the new system that processes catalogue changes, which makes getting the proposed changes to the full faculty for approval a challenge.

We do not have Master's Program/Curriculum committee at the college level (like at the Undergraduate and PhD levels) so the decision was made to create an ad hoc committee with one representative from each department who would present the proposed changes to the ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee met and each department rep presented and explained their proposed changes – discussion ensued, then changes were voted on. All proposed changes were approved. As a result, all of the proposed changes are not going out to all graduate faculty for review and vote, but instead we would like to submit the vote of the ad hoc committee for a vote to approve the changes by the entire Graduate faculty.

Richard Gretz made a motion for the graduate faculty to support/approve the vote of the ad hoc committee to approve the proposed changes. Glenn Dietrich seconded and the motion passed supporting the vote of the ad hoc committee to approve the proposed graduate catalogue changes.

Tom Thomson suggested in the fall we consider coming up with an efficient way to manage the process while complying with the new workflow system (Course Leaf) used to process the catalogue changes. One suggestion was to consider adding a college master's program committee to the college by-laws. Elaine reported that other colleges do have a graduate curriculum committee which is the way they handle approvals at the college level.

Manuel commented that the ad hoc committee that was convened worked very well and provided a thorough consideration of the proposed changes.

A suggestion was made that we form a committee to look at the issue this fall to create a process for reviewing and approving graduate catalogue changes in the future. Samson Alva made a motion "to create a committee to review the issues and to suggest a process to review and approve graduate catalogue changes in the future that will work in conjunction with the new catalogue workflow process." Tom

Thomson seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed and the rest for. The Executive Committee in conjunction with Manuel and Elaine will work to form a committee to consider proposals to be discussed at the fall Graduate Faculty Forum.

Elaine extended many thanks to Ram Tripathi who is retiring, for his continued work over the years on the graduate programs.

8. New Business – no new business.

Dr. Smith extended thanks to Ram Tripathi, Dan Hollas and Lynda de la Vina for their contributions to the college and congratulations on their upcoming retirements.

9. Adjourn – a motion to adjourn was made by Sharad Asthana, seconded by Tom Cannon, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.