

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Alumni Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, October 9, 2015
Bluemont Hall, Room 021

Members Present: Milt Ahlerich, Gail Antenen, Sue Astley, Lindsey Bock, Jenn Bonds-Raacke, Mitch Brigell, Tom Clark, Will Conaway, Joel DiGirolamo, Frank Ferraro, Janet Gee, Amy Gross, Andy Karafa, Sandi McCoy, Desirae Moreno, Steve Quackenbush, John Raacke, Lodi Rhodes, Ken Sewell, Jeanne Tomiser, Gary Wells.

Others Present: Gary Brase, Jerry Frieman, Mike Young, Emily Mahoney, and various faculty.

Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Alumni Advisory Council Chair Jennifer Bonds-Raacke. Jenn followed with some introductory remarks welcoming everyone.

Introduction of Advisory Council members. We went around the room and each member of the Advisory Council and those faculty present introduced themselves.

Presentation on our Behavioral Neuroscience program.

Chip Pickens described some of his research on the relationship between alcohol use and decision making and anxiety. An important question is which comes first: Does alcohol use lead to poor decision making and anxiety, or is it the other way around? He described two experiments he performed with adult rats to try to address this question. Ten undergraduate students and two graduate students work in his lab.

Mary Cain described some of her research on individual differences related to why some people who use alcohol and drugs get addicted and why some do not. Using rats raised in either enriched, isolated or standard lab housing, she studies how early environment affects the neurotransmitter glutamate in the brain and later responses to obtain amphetamines. She has found that environmental enrichment reduces later drug consumption and produces changes in their glutamate system. Nine undergraduate students, including two developing scholars (program for first generation college students to do research), a Chapman Scholar, and a College of Arts and Sciences Research Scholar, and an Honors Student, and four graduate students work with her.

Kim Kirkpatrick's research focuses on reward timing and decisions involving immediate versus delayed gratification with rats. Rats show individual differences in terms of delayed gratification. She found that these individual differences have two sources. One is in ability to differentiate the magnitudes of rewards (like children with ADHD who have trouble differentiating amounts of money). The rats are also impulsive. Another is in sense of time. Those with a poor sense of timing are also impulsive. She found that rats given extended

training on timing and differentiating rewards showed less impulsiveness. Seven undergraduate students including two supported by the Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry program and one by a College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant, three graduate students, and one postdoctoral fellow work with her.

Kim gave us an update on the department's COBRE (Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence) grant proposal. She is the principal investigator on that proposal. This is a \$12 million grant for faculty training, postdoctoral training and infrastructure improvement). The KSU proposal focuses on behavioral and neurological plasticity. It includes internal and external mentoring teams, pathways to independence for postdoctoral students, an exchange program with other institutions, a pilot grants program, \$1.5 million to renovate the department's behavioral neuroscience lab, a neuroinformatics core housed in the College of Engineering, and a program focusing on aging and driving in the Human factors program in the Department of Psychology at Wichita State. Kim started working on this project 4 years ago. We received good scores from the first round of reviews in February 2014. The next deadline for resubmission is January 2016.

Presentation on our graduate program. Gary Brase, Graduate Program Director, provided an overview of our graduate program. The major points in his presentation are summarized in the handout he provided with the agenda (see attachment). He added the following comments:

- There is an ongoing search for a tenure-track faculty member in Industrial/Organizational psychology.
- The teaching awards our graduate students are receiving can be attributed to our Teaching Apprenticeship program.
- The Department has met all of our short-term goals (2013-2015).
- The most significant challenge is to increase the level of financial support offered to our graduate students. Although we have been able to increase our GTA stipends, KSU is still 3-4% below peer institutions. We get a set amount of money from the dean to fund GTAs. We are supplementing that with funds donated to the Foundation. About one quarter of our graduate students are funded elsewhere on campus.

Gary Wells suggested offering students who have 20-hour assistantships in other units and extra 5-hour assistantship in our department as an incentive to take the out-of-department assistantship.

- Although it would help our metrics to have more graduate students, with our current number of faculty (we are a small department relative to our peers) and our limited resources, we have

no plans to increase the number of graduate students. Over the past 10 years we have increased the number of PhD students, Master's students (primarily due to the on-line Masters program in I/O [MIOP]), and the numbers of undergraduate majors.

Gary Wells described a strategy his department has used for getting a new faculty member. Bring to the dean the vita of someone with grant money who is interested to coming to your department.

Department Head's Report. A detailed outline of Mike's report was included with the agenda and is attached to these minutes (See attachment). Mike got through most of his outline. Additional comments are underlined and highlighted.

Approval of Minutes of 2014 Alumni Advisory Council meeting. The minutes from the September 26, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed.

Presentation by Emily Mahoney from the Foundation. Emily reviewed the mission of the Foundation and fund-raising numbers for the University, the College of Arts and Science, and the Department of Psychological Sciences. In FY15 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2016), The department received \$270,000 in deferred gifts, \$16,506 in outright gifts, and \$25,500 in pledges. For the first 3 months of FY16, we already have \$100,000 in deferred gifts and \$4,360 in outright gifts.

In FY15, the Foundation sent an oversized postcard tailored to the department ahead of the Telefund to selected alumni. Not clear that it increased the amount pledged after expenses were paid. Emily asked what our thoughts on the postcards are. The following comments were made in response: Some people commented that they avoid phone calls, but although the postcard is eye catching, they still have to take time to write a check and mail it. Emily noted that there on-line ways to donate and that the Foundation will honor do-not-call requests. Overall, people seemed to have a favorable impression of the postcard.

Emily talked about ways we can help.

- Be an Ambassador. Build relationships with Psychological Sciences Alumni and industry leaders who might have an interest in supporting the department.
- Be an Advocate. Be able to communicate the status of the department (areas of excellence, challenges, needs).
- As an Advisory Council, decide on goals for top funding priorities within Psychological Sciences. She gave the example of the Department of Economics Advisory Council who 3 years ago set a goal to endow 35 scholarships for students at \$25,000 level. They are now at 33 with a few additional scholarships in the works.
- If you have not already, consider financially supporting the department to show that you believe in the department, the faculty and the students.

Mike suggested that you let him know when you are in town, and he will arrange for you to meet

with students to share your expertise. Mitch did that yesterday to describe careers in the pharmaceutical industry.

Emily noted Mike's report that we need about \$100,000 to increase graduate student stipends to reach our peers. She pointed out that a \$25,000 endowed gift generates about \$1,000 per year, and \$2.5 million generates \$100,000. While \$2.5 million is a lofty goal, having 15 \$25,000 scholarships will help fill that gap. Matching our peers in GTA support is one of our 2020 goals.

A comment was made reaching out to people should be more personal. TeleFund calls tend to be for K-State, not the department. Although TeleFund callers now are paid positions, the personal connections are not necessarily there when the caller is not from our department. Students identify with their department, not their college (unless there are in Engineering or Business). Most students in Arts and Sciences do not know what college they are in. Students should be directed to the department website.

Bill Conaway suggested to make a video and send it to alumni or give them a link to a website. The video should show people what goes on in the department.

It is important to ask for donations for specific things. The video could focus on what graduate students do. However, it was noted that GTA stipends are a tricky thing to ask for because most of our alumni were undergraduates and did not go to graduate school. Undergraduate research (a rich environment for undergraduate students) may make a stronger pitch. The connection is stronger to undergraduate programs. That is why scholarships are easier to sell.

Although we tend to think of fund-raising from the top down, we need to focus on the person's experiences and the activities they were in, not so much the department but individual faculty members who had an effect on that person. The connections should be with those activities, experiences, and the faculty when they were here. Even though faculty change, the context that changed one's life is still the same.

Janet Gee described the path that led to her endowing a scholarship. It started with the 60th Anniversary Reunion, then being asked to be on the Advisory Council, and then a meeting with the Dean and Sheila Walker in her living room. Sharing why one gave stories should be in our newsletter.

A challenge for the department is there are so many places where people receive requests to give to K-State. Mike commented that people should give where their heart is, even if that is not to our department. What is important is that they give.

Finally, Emily distributed information about the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign that had its public rollout this evening.

Election of chair-elect 2015-2016. Jenn, Amy, and Ken talked about what a good experience it was for them to serve as chair. Lindsey **Firebaugh** Bock will be the chair starting after this meeting

ends. Two people were nominated for chair-elect. A secret ballot was taken, and Frank Ferraro was elected for the position of chair-elect.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Lunch. The group was joined for lunch by faculty and undergraduate and graduate student leaders.

Research Presentation by Frank Ferraro. We moved to BH 101 to hear Frank's presentation titled "You Need Nature: Emerging Evidence from Psychology and Neuroscience."

Panel discussion and Meet and Greet. Following Frank's presentation, we divided into two groups. One group conducted a panel discussion moderated by Don Saucier titled "Career Options with an Undergraduate Degree in Psychological Sciences—Learning from Alumni Experiences" (Panelists were Milt Ahlerich, William Conaway, Sandi McCoy Kramos, Desirae McKenzie Moreno, and Ken Sewell). The other group met with graduate students in small groups by area in different rooms.

Laboratory tours. We divided into groups and rotated through the behavioral neuroscience and cognitive labs in the department and then ended with group meetings with the social/personality and industrial/organizational students.

Dinner: The Alumni Advisory Council was joined by faculty and spouses and student leaders for dinner in the Purple Pride Conference room in the Alumni Center.