

AQUINAS SCHOLARS FACULTY BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to new Faculty Board Members: Ryan Bremner (Psychology), Roxanne Prichard (Psychology) and Cathy Craft-Fairchild (English). Welcome back to Miriam Itzkowitz (Social Work), Frank Haug (Graduate Program in Software/Engineering), Jim Shovein (Finance/OCB), Jan Frank (Teacher Ed/CELC), Eric Fort (Chemistry), Peter Distelzweig (Philosophy) and James Heyman (Marketing/OCB). Welcome also to Student Board Representative, Carmen Carballo, and the Executive Committee of the Student Board, Kaitlin Kruger (President), Lisa DeGirolamo (Vice-President) and Connor Theisen (Secretary).

2. Terms for serving on the Board—future Board Members from units

3-year Term:

Ryan Bremner—CAS (Psychology)--#4
Roxanne Prichard—CAS (Psychology)--#4 (At-Large)
Cathy Craft-Fairchild—CAS (English)--#1

2-year Term:

Eric Fort—CAS (Chemistry)--#3
James Heyman—OCB (Marketing)
Peter Distelzweig—CAS (Philosophy)--# 2

1-year Term:

Miriam Itzkowitz—SSW
Frank Haug—ENGR
Jim Shovein—OCB
Jan Frank—CELC

So, we'll need new members from SSW, ENGR, OCB, and CELC for 2017-18.

3. Third Term as Director

I spoke with Wendy Wyatt during the summer about continuing in my position, especially given the new Administrative support for the LLC and the possibility of actually accomplishing something for the Program. She was happy to hear this, and said we can talk during the course of this year about how long I would continue in this position.

4. Update on the Program—Student numbers, Sections, Seminars, and Budget matters

Student numbers (210 as of Oct. 1, 2016, Honors Sections (10 this Fall, including 2 Common Sections of Honors PHIL 115, plus 2 Honors Chemistry labs), Seminars (2 were offered this past summer—including 1 one-Professor Seminar; 6 this Fall—including 1 one-Professor Seminar; 2 in J-Term 2017—including 1 one-Professor Seminar; 6 in Spring 2017—including 2 one-Professor Seminars), and Budget matters (roughly—\$129K total; 103K\$ faculty salaries for Seminars and benefits; \$18K travel/food/entertainment combined; 8K\$ office supplies, water, duplicating costs, etc.)

5. Specific goals for this year:

- a. On-Line application process—will need to set-up meeting with Lief Johnson for new Faculty Board members: Roxanne, Cathy, and Ryan.
- b. LLC Matter—We're planning to do the Honors LLC again next year—and Wendy Wyatt wants to get things in motion sooner rather than later. I met with Wendy and Aaron Macke yesterday to talk about the Honors LLC and how to increase the number of participants. Will coordinate with Admissions Office.
- c. Invitation number thresholds for under-represented students— We discussed the plan to lower the invitation-to-apply thresholds for under-represented groups. Not all Faculty Board members were in support of lowering the thresholds and there were questions about the consequences of doing this. I also spoke to the Board members who were unable to attend. The Faculty Board is basically split over the topic. will need to meet with Dan Meyer to talk more about the specifics. I also plan to invite him to our next Faculty Board meeting in November.
- d. Automatic acceptance question—After conversations with Wendy Wyatt and Dan Meyer, I have decided to allow "automatic acceptances" for those who meet the invitation GPA requirement and score above 33 on the ACT (and the relevant SAT conversion score). The Faculty Board asks for numbers/data on automatic acceptances who actually come to UST and join the Honors Program—over the next 3-4 years.
- e. Honors Seminar Book Scholarships—I'm working with Dan Meyer on getting Honors Seminar Book Scholarships—so the Seminars would be totally free.
- f. Continuing First Year Experience—We plan to have Honors Sections of THEO 101 next Fall and Honors Sections of PHIL 115 in the Spring of 2018.
- g. GPA requirement—Plan is to tie it to top 5% of the major—the Faculty Board unanimously supports this change.
- h. Fourth Seminar requirement? Related to discussion about a 1-credit Freshman seminar and a 1-credit capstone presentation like current Summa Exam. (see below, item m)
- i. National Conference in SEA 10-12 to 10-16-2016 (ATL 11-8 to 11-12-2017)—Future locations: 52nd, 2017 November 8-12; Atlanta, Georgia at the Westin Atlanta; 53rd, 2018 November 7-11; Boston, Massachusetts; 54th, 2019 November 6-10; New Orleans, Louisiana; 55th 2020 November 4-8; Dallas, Texas; 56th 2021 October 27-31; Orlando, Florida
- j. Symposium and/or Forum—topics? None yet.

k. Program Perks—We have to keep pushing for the "perks" of being in the Program. i.e., priority registration, scholarship money, housing options, etc. See “other” below for Student Board view.

l. Check-out the Scholars’ web site—and note the short films linked there—under Seminars!

m. Peter Distelzweig’s Seminar proposal—2-credit trial run for possible future first-year Seminar as part of beginning and capstone experience. Faculty Board approves it for a trial run.

6. Application Essay Review teams:

November—James Heyman & Jim Shovein

December—Cathy Craft-Fairchild & Roxanne Prichard

January— Peter Distelzweig & Frank Haug

February—Eric Fort & Jan Frank

March— Miriam Itzkowitz & Ryan Bremner & all hands on deck!

7. Student Board Meetings (in 211 MHC—from 12-1 pm)—10-13; 10-27; 11-10; 12-1—All Faculty Board members are invited to attend!

8. Calendar for upcoming meetings—TH, 11-17-16 and December meeting (T, 12-13-16—only if necessary)

9. Other? Student Board Executive Committee Members (Kaitlin Kruger, Lisa DiGirolamo, Connor Theisen) and Student Board Representative to the Faculty Board (Carmen Carballo) attended. They presented their list of priorities and asked for Faculty Board input on their document. Their priorities include: scholarship money, Seminar Book funding, Student Lounge location, and early registration. They plan to submit a formal written request to Vice Provost Rob Riley and meet with him to discuss their request.