



## **Academic Affairs Update**

March 1, 2021

### **Department Chair Elections**

In order to allow for continuity in leadership during the pandemic, AVCFT and the District have agreed to extend the terms of current department chairs by one year. Department chairs who do not wish to continue in their role for an additional year may step down at the end of their tenure this Spring and their position advertised for new candidates. It appears as we may have to hold elections in only a handful of areas; newly elected chairs will serve for a full three-year term.

### **Tenure Track Evaluations**

Due to many logistical difficulties, some of which resulted from the pandemic, and others from turnover in many roles on campus, we were only able to complete the entire cycle of evaluations and meetings for first-year tenure-track faculty to meet the March 2021 Board of Trustees deadline. Second, third, and fourth year faculty will be board reported in April 2021 after I have had the pleasure of conferring with each tenure committee and reading the evaluation paperwork. My deepest apologies for this (hopefully) one-time delay.

### **New Leadership in Two Academic Divisions**

I learned, soon after beginning my position, that the AVC community had lost a much beloved dean. My condolences to all of you on the passing of Dr. Irit Gat. From all accounts shared with me about Irit, I have come to realize that she was a unique and very special person. I only wish that I had had the privilege of meeting her.

Since Irit's passing, Dean Duane Rumsey has done a great job overseeing the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) in addition to Arts and Humanities (A&H). Beginning July 1, 2021, Duane will be at the helm of SBS as its permanent dean and will relinquish his position with A&H.

Duane leaves big shoes to fill in A&H; however, we may have found the right person for the job. Academic Affairs is delighted to welcome Professor Kathryn Mitchell, department chair of English and co-chair of AP&P, as the incoming Interim Dean of A&H. This appointment is effective July 1, 2021, although Kathryn is being onboarded methodically and already attending all our meetings. I have asked Kathryn to stay on AP&P for one year, this time as the administrative co-chair, to help provide continuity with the important work of curriculum as well as to be a resource for the incoming faculty co-chair selected by the Academic Senate in the Spring.

### **Summer Session**

President Knudson provided the directive last week for Summer session to be offered in a blended model. With the exception of fully online, asynchronous classes, we are exploring the possibility of substituting synchronous offerings with in-person classes in a manner to adhere to Department of Health Services guidelines on maximum occupancy. This means that some students could attend class in person, while others will be remote learners.

We are still in the process of working out the details on this configuration with the help of deans and the faculty leadership. Please stay tuned!

### **Enrollment Decline and Loss of Assignments**

During this last year, many of our valued adjunct colleagues have lost their teaching assignments at AVC and other colleges. I have had the privilege of speaking with a handful of faculty in person and realize how earth shattering this loss has been to so many. I have also witnessed the anguish that our deans have felt when having to deliver such sad news to colleagues they have known, and with whom they have worked, for many years.

The loss of enrollment and cancellation of courses are part of the collateral damage inflicted by the pandemic; however, the devastating human impact of these decisions is not lost on me or on other members of the Academic Affairs team. While we have limited options in keeping classes that do not fill, the decision of cancelling sections is one of the hardest parts of

administrative duties. To all who have lost their assignment(s), please know that we are doing everything we can to rebuild enrollment. Your dedication to students is deeply appreciated, and each and every single one of you is valued.

### **Distance Education Training**

Academic Affairs is very pleased to announce a new round of first level training for Distance Education. This course is designed for faculty who have not previously received this training. Stipend and flex credit amounts will be communicated shortly. **To sign up, please contact Dr. Alex Parisky directly.**

#### General Information

**Instructors:** Dr. Alex Parisky, Perry Jehlicka, Greg Krynen

**Office Location:** BE 109   **Office Hours:**

**Contact Info:** [aparisky@avc.edu](mailto:aparisky@avc.edu) (best way to contact the instructor)

**Website:** [avc.edu](http://avc.edu)

**Tel:** 661-722-6692

**Meeting Dates:** March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16

**Meeting Times:** Zoom: 11am-3pm

#### Course Description

##### **Welcome**

This course was designed to provide an overview of the development process for online courses, focusing particularly on the skills and strategies teachers need to effectively teach online. Over the next five weeks, we will be sharing a variety of instructional strategies, technology tools, and tips to support your teaching online.

##### **Course Goals**

This course consists of seven modules covering the following concepts. Each module will last approximately one week. Additionally, more specific objectives will be provided during the course for each module:

**Orientation Module** –This module provides an introduction to this course. Please review the syllabus for more detailed information about this course.

**Module 1** – This module covers the rules and regulations involved in the implementation of Distance Education.

**Module 2** –This module covers the planning process involved with online courses.

**Module 3** – This module covers the basic tools of Canvas.

**Module 4** – This module covers how to add content, such as assignments and discussions, to your Canvas course.

**Module 5** – This module covers additional Canvas tools and educational technologies that you can incorporate into your course.

### **FPD**

Please consider sharing your professional expertise with colleagues and being a part of AVC's 2021-2022 Faculty Professional Development (FPD) program. Proposals are being accepted for a few more days. Please go to the FPD website to submit your proposal.

<https://www.avc.edu/administration/organizations/fpd>