



Event: AVSSU Meeting

Date: Friday, March 26, 2021

Time: 3:00-4:00 PM (EST)

Location: Zoom

Agenda Items:

1. Programming -- Aidan Cowling
 - a. Public Programming Committee
 - b. All the events/lectures/talks that happen at Daniels
 - c. Before this, all the public programming was done by the Dean
 - i. Wanting to be more equitable and diverse by establishing the **committee**
 1. Lots of representation on the committee
 2. Creating a rich public programming
 - ii. Support faculty research
 1. Faculty supported but student-led programming
 - d. Putting out a Call for Proposals
 - i. Available to students, faculty, and alumni
 - ii. People who are doing interesting things can send in a proposal
 - iii. Committee will look over submissions and base the programming of the year based on the proposals
 - iv. Fully formed proposal about an event that would have certain speakers, themes, budget.
 1. Doesn't have to be fully informed, it can also be a simple proposal through the survey

- v. Process:
 - 1. Survey Monkey Link that is sent to students
 - 2. Proposals are eligible for students, faculty, and alumni (some community outreach as well)
 - a. Want to ensure that our public programming remains equitable and accessible
 - 3. Different types of events (lectures, “What’s Next” Series, and social/wellness like book clubs, movie nights, mental health, activism)
 - a. Idea is that the committee would adjudicate all proposals
 - b. Important to let students know that they have support for writing their proposals, especially if they haven’t done it before.
 - c. Could run an info-session to teach students how to write a proposal
 - d. There has to be some sort of feasibility to the proposals, but you don’t even need to know the speaker.
 - vi. Info sessions in the beginning of May
2. Concern about Hiring from student
- a. Bomani Khemet -- teaches ARC382
 - b. Issues
 - i. Tests/Assessments: answers could be easily found with the openbook, yet students received low marks
 - ii. When students asked to see the rubric to understand why marks were taken off, Prof. Khemet refused to share the rubric with students
 - 1. During class, he responded angrily to students’ reaction
 - 2. Students felt discouraged/afraid to approach him
 - iii. Issues to Quercus / Announcement Issues -- disorganized Quercus / links to important information were very unclear, causing student to miss their final exam

1. With online school, Quercus is essentially the classroom where all resources should be. It's essential for students to be given clear and easy access to materials so that they don't miss out on important information.
- iv. Issues with responding to emails -- took very long to reply and/or didn't reply at all, especially to urgent questions/situations.
- v. Significant downward curve of grades for this class, no clear indication for why this happened
 1. Overall, there needs to be more transparency in the down-curving of student grades (campus-wide issue)
- vi. Lack of transparency in the marking and grading
 1. Course content needs to be taken more seriously when testing
 - a. Example: Tests should be formatted in a way that actually challenges the students' knowledge of what they learned in class. This will also show a more accurate representation of what students know vs. what they didn't understand. An open book test that allows students to find answers using ctrl-f is not a good way to measure students' understanding.
 2. More feedback should be given to students through rubric/open discussion between professors and students.
 3. There needs to be more clarity in expectations for students.
 4. By curving down grades that were initially just open book (ctrl-f), it doesn't show an accurate representation of student's knowledge of the course overall.
 - a. Students will be discouraged to take similar courses in the future because course marking is essentially unfair.
- vii. Concerns with Tenure.
 1. This course has been repeatedly problematic.
 2. Students do not agree with the tenure hiring of this professor because of the many issues that have still not been addressed.

- c. AVSSU has sent a proposal to the Faculty (Program Directors + Assistant Dean of Academics + Interim Dean) about accessibility, mental health, and the different sources of stress put on students regarding the lack of transparency and curving down of grades.
 - i. These are still concerns that many students have and need to continue to be addressed.

3. Updates

- a. Elections & Comms
- b. Student Life
- c. Academic
- d. City Building Expo