



Chair Notes

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 4 - November 2008



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Greetings!

Over the past few weeks, we have been held in suspense by grim budget projections and their potential impact on our professional and personal lives. On Monday (11/10), I met with Stanley Malloy, Patrick Papin, and Cathie Atkins to review and revise our spring 09 class schedule based on the latest projections for additional mid-year reductions.

There is some (relatively) good news: The most current plans do not require increases in teaching loads - though this can still change. These plans, however, call for further significant permanent reductions in our lecturer budget. The revised spring 09 schedule has fewer sections, larger enrollments in the remaining sections, and reassignments of sections. The exact budget reductions and the final schedule will not be known until December/January. More budget news on page 2.

Sincerely,
Jörg

Retreat date changed to 2/15/08
(GEMatt - 11/13/08)

Department

Faculty Meeting

The major agenda item of our meeting on Friday, 11/14, is a discussion of anticipated reductions for spring 09 and the 09/10 AY. The second agenda item is a discussion of the study groups in preparation of our Department retreat on **February 15**. These study groups will play a key role in long-term planning to help us emerge from the current budget challenges stronger than ever.

Department Retreat: 2/15/09

Mark your calendars: The Department retreat has been scheduled for **Sunday, February 15**, at the visitor center of the Mission Trails Regional Park. Details will follow in December and January.

Study Groups

The following study groups will prepare the six major topics we have identified, lead discussions at the retreat on **February 15**, and will follow up with proposals and initiatives:

Governance: Terry Cronan, Keith Hatstrup, Vanessa Malcarne, Pamela Moses.

Teaching/ Buyout: Jennifer Thomas, Melody Sadler, Allison Vaughn, Dennis Saccuzzo, May Yeh, Paul Gilbert.

Graduate: Jeff Conte, Scott Roesch, Radmila Prislin, Axel Mueller, Sara Unsworth, Susan Brasser.

Resources/Budget: Thierry Devos, Linda Gallo, Fred Hornbeck, Sarah Mattson.

Space: Nader Amir, Emilio Ulloa, Maggie Friend, David Marx, Claire Murphy, Jim Sallis.

Mission/Vision: Judy Reilly, Steve Reed, Lisa Kath, Joe Price, Robin Weersing, Liz Klonoff.

A P&P Committee member has been assigned to each group and will take notes. I will try my best to attend and participate in as many meetings as possible. **Please ask Maureen to post meeting schedules of each study group on the Department calendar.**

Department Colloquium

The inaugural Department colloquium this academic year by Nader Amir was terrific: well attended, thought provoking, cross-disciplinary, entertaining, and it generated some good discussion.

Our next colloquium is this **Friday (11/14) at 11:00 in LS-111**. Sara Unsworth's presentation is entitled "Storytelling and Gesture Practices Support Cultural Variation in Orientations towards Nature."

The final colloquium of the semester will be on December 12. Margaret Friend's presentation is entitled "Predicting Language Outcomes: Challenges and Promising Solutions."

Please let Axel Mueller know if you are available during the spring semester to present in the Department Colloquium. We would like to have all six program areas represented over the course of the academic year; i.e., we need presenters from the applied, behavioral & cognitive neuroscience, learning & cognition, and social psychology program areas.

Budget Updates

In Sally Roush's Budget Message #11 (10/31), we learned that the State has asked the CSU to cut from its fiscal year 08/09 budget an additional \$31.3 million. For us at SDSU, this meant a second budget reduction in the current FY of \$2.46 million.

... and just as I edited this newsletter, Budget Message #12 arrived in my inbox (11/10), informing us that the third budget reduction is \$66.3 for the CSU and \$5.2 for SDSU.

SDSU is able to absorb the second and third reductions, because the first reduction was \$7.88 million lower than anticipated.

As you know, the Governor recently called the legislature back into session to deliberate additional budget reductions and revenue/tax increases. This will trigger another round of cuts for the CSU and SDSU. In anticipation, each university division is currently planning for possible 3%, 5%, and 7% midyear reductions. **Our newly revised spring 09 class schedule is in line with a 3.5% reduction at the College of Science level.**

While this current budget crisis is disconcerting, it is helpful to remember that SDSU has weathered many budget storms over the past decades. We have been able to sustain -- if not increase -- the quality of our university throughout them, and I am optimistic that we will do so again.

The key to our continued success is to work together toward efficient short-term solutions while moving forward on our long-term plans. Each of us has a role to play in support of our Department's mission during these difficult times. This includes:

- maintaining the quality of our teaching and scholarship
- teaching some larger, new, or additional sections
- maintaining productive research programs
- additional grant reimbursements
- pursuing new research and training grants
- mentoring additional students in our labs
- raising the profile of SDSU at the local, national, and international levels
- lobbying our legislature to make funding of the CSU a high priority

Most of all, we have to continue to support each other in our different roles to keep the Department boat afloat and sailing forward during these stormy times.

Undergraduate

Student Research Symposium

The 2nd Annual SDSU Student Research Symposium (SRS) will be held Feb. 27-28, 2009.

The SRS provides a forum for SDSU students to present their research to a panel of judges and the public. Presentations are organized by academic disciplines with divisions for undergraduate, master's and doctoral students. Please encourage your students to submit applications.

Registration opens Dec. 1 via the Division of Research Affairs Web site: <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~gra/grad/research/researchmain.html>

For more information about the SRS, please visit: <http://gra.sdsu.edu/grad/research/researchchopps.html>

Psi Chi/ Psychology Club

The Psi Chi Initiation Ceremony on 11/7 was attended by more than 100 students and their families. This is a Psychology Department record! Congratulations to the presidents of PsiChi/ Psychology Club (Melinda Schuricht, Randee Kirkemo), their officers, and their faculty advisors (Paul Gilbert, Emilio Ulloa).

Beginning next month, Psi Chi will restart its monthly newsletter: Psyches Noodle! It will be available in the Member's section at <http://sdsupsichi.com/index.php>

The end of the year **Student - Faculty Social** will take place on **December 10 at Scripps Cottage.**

Graduate

Curriculum Deadlines

Curricular proposals (e.g., new JDPs, MA/MS concentrations and emphases) must be submitted to the Dean's Office for consideration for inclusion in the 2010-11 catalog and bulletin as follows:

February 1, 2009: Degree programs that do not appear on the SDSU Academic Master Plan.

February 9, 2009: New courses, changes in courses, minors, emphases, concentrations, credentials, etc. and new degree programs that are included on the Academic Master Plan.

MA/MS

Graduate Equity Fellowships
Congratulations to 13 MA/MS students who were awarded Graduate Equity Fellowships by the SDSU Graduate Division. These fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to economically disadvantaged graduate students who

are excelling in their studies as indicated by their GPA.

Applications to the Exchange Program with the U of Mannheim

Please encourage your students to apply to the exchange program with the University of Mannheim. While staying enrolled at SDSU, the program allows students to study and work in research labs in the Psychology Department at the University of Mannheim. The official announcement has been distributed by Radmila Prislina on 11/10. Keith Hattrup can provide students with additional information. The application **deadline is December 1.**

Faculty

In the News: Thierry Devos

The past few months brought some well-deserved national recognition and attention to Thierry Devos's research on racial biases and American politics. Congratulations to Thierry and his graduate student Debbie Ma (now at the U of Chicago)! Here are a few references to Thierry's work:

Devos, T & Banaji, M. R. (2005). American = White? [Journal of Personality and Social Psychology](#), 88, 447-466.

Devos, T., Ma, D. S., & Gaffud, T (2008). [Is Barack Obama American Enough to Be the Next President? The Role of Ethnicity and National Identity in American Politics](#). Poster presented at the IXth Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM. http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~tdevos/thd/Devos_sps2008.pdf

Vedantam, S. (2008, October 13). Does your subconscious think Obama is foreign? Washington Post. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/12/AR2008101201873.html?sub=AR>

Kristof, N. D. (2008, October 30). What? Me biased? New York Times.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/opinion/30kristof.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Internal Fundraising Campaign

By now you probably read Fred Hornbeck's e-mail (11/7) about the internal fund raising campaign to directly benefit our Department. When I was first introduced to this idea a few years ago, it felt a little odd to contribute financially to the organization that employs you. Shouldn't the State of California provide for the things we need to do our job? Unfortunately, the sobering fact is that our employer has not done so in 40+ years, and there is no indication that this will change in the next 40+ years. So, unless we want to postpone some of our plans indefinitely, we may as well do something about this right now.

Fred mentioned that I asked P&P to establish a standing Department Scholarship Committee to actively manage our existing scholarship accounts and raise additional funds.

I will ask P&P to create a similar committee to oversee and establish funding priorities for donations through the internal campaign. All revenue generated and all expenditures will be under our direct and exclusive control.

We can use this money for all the things the State of California does not support and that belong to a strong and proud Department of Psychology: better student travel and research support, hosting, speaker honoraria, special recognitions, etc.

Please send Fred an e-mail indicating your intent to join the internal fundraising campaign at whatever level you are comfortable. We can do it! Let's do it!

Traveling?

Sorry for bringing this up again ... Don't forget to submit your T-2 form before traveling to conferences, study sections, workshop, etc. The form can be found at: <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/ap/travelmanual/travmansec51800.htm>

Staff

Search Cancelled

Just when we were about to schedule finalists for the vacant Administrative Coordinator I position, we were informed that all searches in the COS have been cancelled.

In light of these developments, I will reassign administrative duties to allow the Department office to function as smoothly and as efficiently as possible. I also urge you to be especially considerate when asking Kendrea, Maureen, and Lorah for help.

Emeritus

Breakfasts, Lunches, Socials?

I know that some of our emeritus faculty get together for occasional or regular socials. Please send Maureen or me an e-mail, and we will put the event on the Department calendar and in the December Chair Notes.

Alumni

Lecture: Dr. Heidi Kraft

Thursday, November 20th
6:30 - 9:00 PM
Marina Village Conference Center
Starboard Room
1936 Quivira Way
San Diego, CA 92109

Please join the Psychology Chapter of the SDSU Alumni Association for a presentation by Dr. Heidi Kraft, a Graduate of the SDSU/UCSD JDP in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Kraft is now a Navy Psychologist and wrote a book about her experiences in Iraq. Copies of her book (Rule Number Two: Lesson I Learned in a Combat Hospital) will be available for purchase at the event. If you already have a copy, bring it with you to have it signed! Wine and cheese will be served.

Cost: \$10 Alumni/Students; \$15
Others. Seating is limited.

Please RSVP by November 2 to:
<http://chapters.sdsu.edu/psychology>

Miscellaneous

Wedding News!

It happened on October 4, 2008. Congratulations to Elizabeth Cordero and Gary Castaneda!

