

AA Update: October 31 2023

Allison Pease

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

October 31, 2023



Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

In this update I want to share a bit about how faculty are improving foundational learning and our curriculum, as well as encourage everyone to attend our upcoming reception for faculty book authors from 2020, 2021 and 2022 to celebrate one of the core functions of the college: to create and share knowledge.

Continuous Curriculum Creation

In the last year, faculty have made significant additions and revision to the curriculum. Much of our shared work has been in **applying our Seven Principles for a Culturally Responsive, Inclusive, and Anti-Racist Curriculum**. Faculty created ten new courses last year that will increase our students' knowledge of and attention to the diverse cultures and communities that contribute to our society.

This is especially important for our many students who come from these communities and can see themselves and their cultures better represented in our curriculum. Several of these courses are part of the soon-to-be-created, interdisciplinary Global Asian Studies Minor.

Faculty also revised a dozen courses last year, updating titles, descriptions, and content to make courses more



inclusive. Thanks to all who have undertaken this important work.



Writing and Quantitative Reasoning: Strengthening Fundamental Skills

Recognizing the need to give students more writing instruction, the Vertical Writing Program has worked with faculty across the college on several programs to infuse writing instruction in the curriculum. One of these is the **Writing in the Disciplines** project, which saw the creation of writing courses for Criminal Justice and the social sciences broadly, as well as revision of our technical writing course. To date, we have added a WID course to six majors, with more to come.

Lastly, we started reimagining quantitative literacy and reasoning at the college. This work began with a questionnaire in which faculty from over 30 undergraduate programs and more than half of our grad programs talked about **the QR skills our students need**. Dean Sidman led two Faculty Development Day sessions on the topic and is engaging with faculty around the college to develop institutional learning outcomes for QR.

You can look forward to more conversations about how to build these critical skills into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Please Join the Faculty Authors Reception

Thursday, November 9 at 5 pm in 9.64 NB I can't wait to acknowledge the intellectual ferocity of our faculty authors who just last year alone published a whopping 82 books. – the booklet with those titles is attached to this email.

I encourage all of us in Academic Affairs, whether faculty or staff, to join this event. There is nothing like hearing our faculty talk about their work, and seeing our collective intellectual breadth to make you proud of being part of the John Jay community.



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