

444 Baldy Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 16th, 3:30pm, Park Hall

- The results of the online survey for TAs/Instructors (read by Holly)
 - Three biggest problems
 - Sound- the office space is noisy, and the partitioned room is not soundproof- this is especially true when language instructors need to conduct oral exams with their students
 - Storage space- there is a lack of storage space generally; the existing lockers could be taller
 - Privacy- there is a lack of privacy; this is especially problematic if/when students come to discuss grades and/or personal/serious issues
 - These were the common issues that TAs and Instructors brought up during the meeting
- The goal of the meeting
 - According to JP, the goal of the meeting was to discuss the topic of negotiating with the Dean for additional space
- Solutions to the three big problems
 - JP will negotiate for an additional room in Baldy
 - This will be a single office with about three desks in the room
 - IMPORTANT: the provost will technically own the room, and it is therefore subject to requisition at any time; we would have about a years notice if this were to occur
 - The office of the late Tsan Huang will be emptied and repurposed as an additional office space for TAs/Instructors
 - This is likely to occur before we acquire the aforementioned room in Baldy
 - There is the possibility of scheduling time in the library on the 6th floor and/or room 617
 - Several faculty members offered to make their underused office space available
 - There is a strong possibility of getting a large row of taller lockers outside of 444 in the hallway
- Additional issues
 - Mitsu encouraged language instructors to coordinate their oral exams in spaces other than 444
 - He recently sent out an additional email regarding this issue
 - Transparency between the faculty was a recurring issue
 - It was brought up that the TAs/instructors need an open channel with the faculty, not just one meeting per year
 - The faculty informally agreed to form a standing committee to deal with the ongoing 444 saga
 - Juergen suggested that a discussion group be formed BEFORE the standing committee is formed

- This is also a role that can be filled by General Grievance (aka Holly)
- Any scheduling of office hours in ALL rooms could be accomplished by the TAs/Instructors via Google Docs, or something like that
 - Sharon does not need to have more work to do
- IMPORTANT- given that individual, private offices are out of the question, the issue of students discussing personal issues and/or becoming emotional in a public space will not really be solved
 - As was mentioned, the best option would be to kindly ask other TAs/Instructors to leave the room for a few minutes