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Brandywine Business Department Getting a Makeover

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With the departure of two faculty members, a new professor of Management with Penn State ties coming to the campus, and a new department coordinator stepping into place, the Penn State Brandywine Business Department will look a great deal different next fall.

The past two weeks have been very chaotic for the Business department, with reported discussion of unfair personnel issues brought to light by a local newspaper column and interviews with one exiting faculty member. The departure of both Dr. James Roh, professor of Management and instructor Mark Baylor, a fixed-term Business faculty member and department coordinator for the past several years has become a focal point regarding the future of the Business program here at Penn State Brandywine.

Several rumors have been flying around regarding the reason of Roh's departure. According to Dr. Paul deGateno, Dean of Academic Affairs, Roh will be leaving because although Brandywine offered him a new contract, he turned it down for a tenured track job at Rowan University. DeGateno also stated that Dr. Mark Baylor, who teaches a variety of classes in the Business department, is leaving for personnel issues, but would not give any other reason than that to *The Lion's Eye*.

"Personnel policy does not allow me to disclose any further than that," said deGateno.

Baylor, however, sees things a bit differently. According to Baylor, the reason Roh is departing from the Brandywine campus because an earlier offer of tenure was later rescinded.

"Dr. deGateno over stepped his authority and should have honored the commitment to Roh," says Baylor. According to Baylor, Dr. Roh was promised a tenured position upon completion of a dissertation for a PhD, but then it was rescinded.

"I believe that the University is treating James Roh unfairly," Baylor states.

According to Baylor, he was told that his contract would not be renewed and that by Commencement he should have his office cleared out for his departure. The Schedule of Courses website shows that Baylor is on the books to teach a summer marketing course, but Baylor says he will not be the instructor because of recent events. Dr. James Roh declined comment for this article.

When it comes to the faculty issue in the Business Department, deGateno said that there are a few changes and ideas that he wants for the program, and is committed to finding the right group of faculty who has strong credentials and background, as well as a passion for conducting research.

With that said, deGateno said that the department has several strong and dedicated faculty, both tenure track and non-tenure track, who meet that bill. In addition, ideas, new professor Diane Disney will be joining the department as a full-time management professor in the fall. She is coming to Brandywine from Penn State Great Valley, where she was the Chancellor.

A new coordinator will also be stepping up to the plate to run the program for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. DeGateno says that Associate Professor of Corporate Communication Dr. Susan Fredricks will be taking on the task of coordinat-



Business faculty members Mark Baylor (left) and James Roh (center) will be departing Penn State Brandywine at the end of this semester. Baylor contends his contract not being renewed is because of his outspoken stance over issues concerning Roh's contract. Dean of Academic Affairs Paul deGateno (right) says that the changes in personnel are not something that the university can speak about due to policy, but that this is a chance for the Business department to take a new direction while concentrating on the things that have worked in the past. (photos courtesy of Penn State University)

ing the Business program, doing such things as course scheduling and making academic advising decisions for the program.

DeGateno sees these changes as an opportunity for a new shift in direction for the Business program here at Brandywine.

"The Business program is the largest major here at the campus, and we are always looking to attract new students and compete with other Penn State Business programs state-wide, as well as retain the students already enrolled in the major," he says. In order to do this, deGateno believes that changes need to be made in addition to the already solid methods of operation that are in place.

"The internship program for students in the Business Department is strong, and I would like to have students be able to continue to take the theoretical processes learned in class and practice them in the real world," says deGateno. He wants the students to have a two-sided "street" where they get a business aspect to the line of work, but also have the education for the major that they are pursuing.

DeGateno wants to distribute the class loads. He would like to have a strong day class schedule for the Business majors, but also have a solid and respectable night course schedule.

As for the future of the program, deGateno would like to create a Business Advisory Council, which will consist of campus faculty within the Business Department and businessmen/women that work in the work force that may have graduated from Penn State. He would also like to have more guest speakers come to the business classes to share their experiences with the students of what the degree they have can do in the real world.

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Brandywine Student Affairs Director Elected PCPA President

Special to *The Lion's Eye*

Matthew Shupp, Penn State Brandywine's director of student affairs, has been elected president of the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association (PCPA), a group providing leadership in the student development profession.

PCPA, an organization of approximately 160 members, represents many institutions—public, private, and two- and four-year—across the state of Pennsylvania. Shupp has been a member since 2002.

Prior to being named president, Shupp co-chaired the organization's 25th Anniversary Conference in 2006 and held positions on the conference committee in 2007 and 2008. In his capacity as president for a term of three years, Shupp will oversee the executive board and represent PCPA

at the annual American College Personnel Association annual national convention.

"My hope is to carry on the momentum that PCPA has gained over the last few years," Shupp said, "as well as increase membership by exposing more graduate students and new professionals to the benefits of joining such a worthwhile and resource-rich organization."

Shupp's activities in the community do not end there. He is one of the authors of the recently released book, "Maybe I Should: Case Studies on Ethics for Student Affairs Professionals," published by the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). Specifically, Shupp contributed a case study entitled, "Student Affairs Petty Cash" to the book, which is available through ACPA and University Press of America.

In addition, Shupp was invited to deliver the keynote address for Community College of Philadelphia's Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony in March.



PSU Director of Student Affairs
Matthew Shupp. (photo courtesy of Penn State Brandywine)