1-19-2016

Minutes, January 19, 2016

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Educational Policies Committee  
1/19/16  
4:30 p.m., Old Main 127  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Faculty: Tim Bloser, Dave Dehnel, Ellen Hay,  
Vicki Phipps, Forrest Stonedahl, Shara Stough  
Students: Allan Daly, Jacqueline Jastrzebski, Christopher Saladin  
Ex Officio Members: Liesl Fowler, Wendy Hilton-Morrow, Brian Katz  
Guests: Chadia Chambers-Samadi

Absent: Ann Ericson, Reuben Heine, Taddy Kalas, LaDonna Miller, Samantha DeForest-Davis

Start Time: 4:35  
End Time: 5:27

I. Approval of Minutes from 1/12/16 (approved)

II. Continuing Business

Raising of Enrollment Caps to 30 for 100 and 200 Level Courses (except for FYI)  
Following up on our discussion on 1/12/16, what questions can we formulate for the Dean? For the faculty?

Questions/Discussion:
– What is the strategy? What is the Goal and the expected effect? Is the purpose to cut sections? Total number of seats stays the same, but sections should be cut. To cut back on 100 and 200 courses so they can be freed up for LSFY courses.  
– What can be provided to the department chairs to help with planning?  
– It wasn’t made clear if you should just be raising caps or cutting sections. We all should get clarification from department chairs on whether they were told anything about cutting sections.  
– Is this setting a terrible precedent? It sounds like a band aid solution.  
– It was not presented to faculty. Why didn’t they ask for faculty’s input? It was not communicated very well, they could have said something like, “Due to financial reasons we would like to cut so many sections and to help that, raise some classes to 30.”  
– Many classrooms can’t hold 30.  
– 8 students is the minimum class size. Will the higher caps or the associated budget issues affect the minimum for some classes?  
– Will this affect the 300 level courses in the future?  
– Could departments negotiate it? A department probably has their own ideas on how sections can be reduced instead of cutting back on 100/200 level classes? Give departments options to plan better, to get bigger class sizes.
– How is this all being managed in the master scheduling?
– Is this a temporary measure?
– There is an immediate concern of the large number of sabbaticals. Can we ask clarity on the cause of the bubble in the amount of faculty on sabbatical? Pre-tenure release put in to encourage more research.
– I can’t believe Pareena would put this together with the negative effects as her intention. Can we invite her to a meeting and ask her questions?
– What is the impact of larger class size on retention? Faculty would do less writing assignments and lecture more and more multiple choice tests.
– Have other nonacademic areas have had to cut back like we have? We have professionals looking at this all the time. CORE is an added expenditure, but it was in the strategic plan and it is needed for our competitive status.
– US News and World report being the only reason we aren’t doing it in Fall is a deception and if we do it for winter and spring we should do it for fall.
– At your division meetings, ask feedback on starfish and or this topic. Inform them that we plan to have a dialog with the administration.

Dave will draft a document and invite Pareena to next week’s meeting.

III. New Business

A. French Summer Program in Dijon: Proposal to Renew for Five Years
   The International and Off-Campus Programs Committee (IOPC) recently voted to renew the French summer program in Dijon for five more years. We are now asked to endorse it.
   Supporting material: IOPC renewal form, program description, coursework, Chair statement, student learning outcomes

Questions/Discussion:
– This program has been around since the 1930s. The difference between the 210-310? Both classes are taken together but the 300 level students have to do a 10 page research paper. Deepening of knowledge of what they already have studied. Both levels do the journal. Reflective piece on each of the sites.
– Budget. Students pay $6,000, which includes 6 credits, 6 weeks stay with family includes their meals, tuition university, bus pass, 3 excursions, weekly group dinner, cellphone pay as you go, 20% of the 6 credits gets paid back to college.
– Change of going every year vs every two years. We will have a better enrollment because the students come back excited and talk it up to their friends, that is a good time to recruit the next group.
– Seems like a great opportunity/program. Helps support the French major.

Motion to approve the French Summer Program in Dijon was made by Vicki Phipps and seconded by Jackie Jastrzebski. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie J Oliger