

A&S Faculty Council Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2010, Drake Room

In attendance: Dean Lenz, Chair Darcie Vandegrift, Jeff Karnicky, Chinh Dao, Dan Alexander, Megan Brown, Bill Klipec, Leslie Marrs, Joseph Schneider, Melisa Klimaszewski, Michael Haedicke, and David Courard-Hauri.

Meeting began at 3:30 PM

February 3 minutes passed.

Discussion of Drake Curriculum Task Force and University Curriculum Committee Minutes from 2/11/10

Dean Lenz noted that 24 out of 130 faculty responded to DCTF survey and pointed out that there is still time to do the survey online.

Tone of UCC minutes discussed. Other things noted by individual members of A&S council: only J-term was discussed, other issues raised by A&S were not; (noted that UCC will only had J-term on agenda for that meeting); sense that critiques are not being heard by UCC; asking if process has become politicized; sense that there's no consensus; still possible to break proposal up and vote on parts separately; rationale behind proposal not necessarily clear; sense that curriculum revision is being pushed too quickly; question of who's pushing for direct assessment; sense that more information is needed; question of whether faculty wants these changes and if they are in the best interest of students; question of how revision would affect work life; question of whether curriculum can be passed in parts; sense that more planning is needed before revision is passed; question of timeline for instituting revision; question of A&S council role in process; questions of how revision more strongly meets mission (how does combining writing and critical thinking AOI serve mission?); question of whether need for assessment is driving revision.

Dean Lenz noted that the real object of curriculum review is to be sure that students will get an education that matches the university's values. Object is to improve student learning by revising a 10-year old curriculum that current faculty have had no input on.

Chair Vandegrift asked what A&S should say to UCC. It was noted that many do not have a lot of trust in the process and are worried that voices are not being heard. Ways of getting more faculty to do survey were discussed. Need for more details about what changes would look like in order to vote on them was noted, as was possibility of breaking proposal into smaller parts.

Dean Lenz answered question of how process will work. UCC will forward recommendations to Faculty Senate, which will then be voted on by Senate or by whole faculty.

The possibility of departmental statements on Curriculum revision was raised.

Discussion of Strategic Plan (continued)

Specific concerns were listed regarding the following points, and revisions were made as noted.

Goal 3.1: service learning

1. Develop and support a variety of community engagement and service learning opportunities for students.
 - a) Consider release time for faculty incorporating service learning into a course for the first time
 - b) Increase credit hours from 3 to 4 for courses that contain a service learning component

Responsibility: Department Chairs, Curriculum, A&S Council, Dean.

Departments submissions to Curriculum by March 2010

Plan completion: October 2011.

Change 1.b was changed to language that said credit hours, would be considered but not necessarily changed.

“for the first time” was deleted in 3.1a

Goal 4.3b: where appropriate consider long-term nontenured faculty appointments

3. Explore the re-conceptualization and restructuring of faculty and staff roles.
 - a) Investigate flexible faculty contracts
 - b) Where appropriate, consider long-term, non tenure-track appointments
 - c) Review job descriptions and qualifications for administrative assistant positions, as they open. (Initiate immediately)

Responsibility: Dean, Cabinet, and Department Chairs, in cooperation with HR

Start date: Spring 2010.

After question of whether continuous term appointments should be a priority, 3.a and 3.b were deleted.

2. Review faculty workload.
 - a) Review pay for part-time faculty and propose adjustments as necessary. *Dean, August 2009*
 - b) Develop a college-wide policy to recognize independent study and directed research as part of course load. *Department Chairs, Spring 2010*
 - c) Discuss the place and purpose of faculty service in a university that prizes engaged citizenship and develop a strategies to make service equitable and rewarding. *Dean, Cabinet, Council, Department Chairs, Faculty; Start Date: Spring 2009*
 - d) Discuss and if possible initiate flexible contracts for faculty at various stages of their academic careers. *Dean, Department chairs, Provost, Human Resources. Start Date: 2010*

2.2d—can it be misunderstood? Is “flexible contracts” clear? “tenure-track and tenure” added.

2.2c revised to “make distribution of service assignments more equitable”

Add “with particular attention to diversity” in 4.2

Goal 3: “Common good” changed to “various communities within and beyond the university”

Motion to pass strategic plan with above revisions passed

Cabinet Report

Cabinet talked about issues regarding promotion from associate professor to full professor.

Dean’s Report

Dean Lenz noted the provost’s memo about “time as a resource” support for faculty research.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeff Karnicky.