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Senate Minutes

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October 5, 2017
ACADEMIC FORUM 202

Present: H. Alviani, A. Arnold, D. Aruscavage, D. Beougher, M. Cardozo, A. Christman, K. Clair, J. Conahan, A. M. Cordner, S. Dewey, S. Doll-Myers, R. Flatley, M. Gallagher, J. Garcia, M. Gober, K. Hawkinson, K. Hudak, D. Immel, J. Jedwab, M. John, D.A. Johnson, D.B. Johnson, E. Johnson, E. Kraal, D. Lea, L. Moss, F. Murshed, L. Norris, R. Perkins, A. Pfeiler-Wunder, R. Portada, V. Reidout, S. Riley, W. Rogers, J. Ronan, T. Stahler, M. Vaughn, A. Vogel, F. Wei, D. Wingrove, T. Wong, A. Zayaitz, L. Frye (for Y. Zhang)

Absent: R. Courtney, R. Gross, M. Johnston, P. McLoughlin, G. Muugi, E. Nieves, M. Scheuing, C. Walck

Guests: A. Carroll, M. Delaney, M. Gambone, K. Newlander, P. Quinn, R.L. Smith, C. Wells

I. Call to Order

University Senate President A. Arnold called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

II. Announcements – A. Arnold

A. Senate Election Committee: Elections are for Vice-President and Secretary; positions to begin August 2018. Election Committee is A. Christman (Chair), M. Cardozo and M. Vaughn. These are university leadership positions. Contact A. Christman (achristman@kutztown.edu) to nominate; election in December.

III. Approval of the Minutes – A. Arnold

T. Stahler moved to accept Sept. 7, 2017 Minutes; second J. Ronan. Substantive corrections? None; Minutes approved.

IV. President, Committee Task Force Reports: -

A. Senate President's Report – A. Arnold

1. General Education Redesign: is in its drafting stage. As with students and their drafts, now is the time to take something positive, step back and refine to make the finished product the best it can be.

2. Please share with Constituents: 99% of faculty confirmed attendance. Thanks to faculty, administration and students who advocated for verification, we had terrific results. Working together is worth celebrating. Nearly all care deeply and are working hard together; let's focus on that.

3. Role of Senate and shared governance: Our formal role is in certain matters [like approving candidates for graduation]. However, most of our effectiveness is in our advisory role. "Power" is not the issue. To the extent we work with our Constituents and Administration, and that we offer a sound advisory opinion, Senate's voice is heard and effective. Therefore, it's vital that Senators communicate regularly with Constituents.

B. Senate Vice President's Report – J. Ronan

1. Senate VP is also Chair of Committee on Committees (CoC): presented a slate of CoC selections to a few vacancies mainly due to sabbatical leaves. Selections were drawn from last Spring's Willingness to Serve. K. Clair moved to approve slate; second S. Dewey. Slate approved.

2. L. Norris to be on leave in Spring 2018; volunteer needed to serve as Secretary.

C. University President's Report – K. Hawkinson

1. Good news:

a. KU is up in US News & World Report Regional Universities-North rankings to 126th, up two from 2016; up a total of 7 since 2015. KU is also in the top half of universities in the state system.

b. A dual admissions agreement has been reached with the Community College of Philadelphia.

CCP has 35,000 students. This agreement can greatly increase number of CCP transfers to KU.

c. Annual Alumni luncheon at Vanguard's headquarters in Phoenixville was very successful. Vanguard's founder spoke to over 140 KU alumni employees.

d. Child Promise: KU is getting involved with this program to support high school and college students as they age out of the foster care system.

e. KU hosted visiting students from India as part of a PASSHE Consortium.

f. KU Women's Soccer Team is ranked Number One in Division II. This is historic for KU.

g. K. Hawkinson thanked faculty for complying with verifying attendance. Over 93% of faculty did so, saving \$250,000 in student aid. Success in verification provided enough data to track down over 100 students who had neglected to verify their own enrollment at KU this semester, meaning we also have more precise enrollment numbers.

h. Currently KU has 8,300 students. First time enrollments are up, but due to continued larger graduating classes, overall enrollment is down 2.2% in headcount; 2.5% in FTE (full time students). Overall, PASSHE enrollment (head count) is down 4.4%.

i. Higher enrollments than expected and 1% increase in retention (to 74%) are positives.

j. KU has increased its racial/ethnic diversity to 22%; over 25% of the entering class come from underrepresented groups. This is historic for KU.

2. Budget: Overall lower enrollments and increased cost; current deficit rose from 4.4 to 5.9 million.

Discussion:

D.A. Johnson: asked about Child Promise.

S. Mangold: KU has "PROFS" program related to Child Promise. "Providing Resources & Opportunities for Future Standouts."

D. Student Government Board (SGB) Report: – M. Gallagher

1. SGB hosting the PASSHE SGB Leadership program weekend of Oct. 14.

2. Sub-committees are very active:

a. Paint the Town Gold: working with businesses/Borough residents to promote cooperation & pride.

b. Academic Technology: following up on a student survey from last year.

c. Budget: will be meeting to allocate funds to student organizations.

3. SGB is promoting the health kiosk in the SUB. It anonymously identifies potential problems and directs students to appropriate resources.

4. SGB promoting pilot program for expanded shuttle hours (M-Th 4-10 PM). Shuttles run later on weekends.

5. SGB President will be meeting with Interim Chancellor Whitney when she visits KU next week.

Discussion:

D.B. Johnson: Noted that the Governor has appointed M. Gallagher to the Board of Governors. She will be confirmed by the Senate shortly. Applause! This is great for her, KU and PASSHE.

V. Unfinished Business - A. Arnold

KU's Core Marketing/Identity:

Research identified KU's core strength: showing students they're capable of far more than they realize. All at KU - faculty, staff, managers, students - share responsibility "to maintain a dynamic, supportive environment where hard work and integrity thrive." Important as we move forward together.

VI. New Business - A. Arnold

General Education Discussion

L. Norris summarized the most recent Gen Ed Redesign Meeting:

M. Eicholtz reported on meeting with Chairnet (overwhelmed with implementation; especially First Year Seminar (FYS)); LAS CC (want more specific disciplines; not in student interest); University Q/A

(not positive but good feedback).

M. Eicholtz revised the Narrative to include feedback; Committee to consider at next meeting. Due to feedback and revision, revised timeline:

Final draft now to UCC by Nov. 16 to consider at its Nov. meeting; Senate, APSCUF in December.

A. Arnold: asked Senators to consider what their groups need in order for Gen Ed to succeed? This holds for students, faculty, administrators, SCUPA, Library.

Discussion:

L. Norris: BFA students will go from 39-42 Gen Ed credits, making it impossible to complete a minor with 120 credits. This impacts hundreds of students.

J. Garcia: FYS - who will teach? What about a collaboration: faculty/admin/student affairs?

A. Arnold: great idea; parallels team approach in fields like medicine and law.

E. Kraal: Physical Sciences colleagues researched FYS at state schools. Typically FYS capped at 19. Most are strictly academic and supported by others for skills development.

-dept. wants a plan for assessment prior to implementation

E. Kraal personally did the Summer Start program. FYS takes a lot from Summer Start.

-recommends reducing 9 outcomes to 4.

-is FYS an Orientation or Academic program? Can't succeed at both.

-Commends the Committee for its hard work and respectfully suggests an Academic FYS. FYS needs to be a transformative experience in keeping with KU's core identity.

L. Norris: Currently FYS to be capped at 30. Departments/faculty across campus want FYS to be centered on Academic.

A. Arnold: With team support for the Orientation components.

T. Wong: Orientation portions can also happen through activities, Learning Communities, etc.

V. Reidout: Team approach already being done. CASA presence in a dorm; a more robust Orientation at start of school; support of Residential Life staff. Encourages this team approach.

L. Frye: Is there assessment data on UST?

A. Arnold: Summer Start students found program helpful because first semester too intense as is.

K. Clair: questioned implementation of FYS by Fall 2018 as planned.

D. Immel: Music dept. finds FYS problematic especially for Music Ed students; they won't be able to meet their Math/English requirements. Will there be exceptions to this model?

J. Conahan: How is this aligned with retention efforts?

L. Norris: Model designed with retention in mind. Ease of external/internal transfers; expanded opportunity for minors for most students; small FYS to develop relationship with faculty, etc.

D.B. Johnson: Needs details to ensure resources will be provided to support FYS. For example, if most effective faculty should teach FYS, temporary, part-time faculty teach advanced courses. This is problematic for retention of majors.

M. Gallagher: Most students unaware this is happening.

K. Hudak: Committee should have started with student input. At first loved proposed model for its simplicity and flexibility, ease of transferring majors without losing credits. Became fearful at LAS CC meeting when became aware of logistics & now conflicted about the model.

D. Wingrove: emphasized flexibility is key for students. Emphatic that FYS should be Academic; don't coddle students. Improve Orientation but don't make a semester-long course; will be unpopular.

T. Stahler: CoE programs can now offer Gen Ed courses, unlike now. Secondary Ed dept. supports the model; likes its flexibility. Supports an Academic FYS and smaller class size.

A.M. Corder: Criminal Justice also supports; likes its flexibility.

A. Vogel: Concerned about a "race to the bottom" with competition for students. Mechanism must be put in place to prevent that.

English dept. supports increased Composition component. However, an Administrative Oversight

Coordinator for writing across the curriculum is needed to ensure CMP courses meet areas currently covered in ENG 023/024.

E. Johnson: as At-Large representative, concerned that the descriptive categories seem to lack rigor. How will this appear to outside groups? Higher Ed is under scrutiny for lack of rigor. What of parents comparing programs of different schools?

A. Arnold: There are two components in the model. SLOs are to be assessed. Themes are not assessed and create a distributive system.

T. Wong: SLOs somewhat confusing, especially #3 and "data." Theoretically similar to SLO #2.

L. Norris: SLOs #2 and #3 are distinct. "Data" in #3 refers to practices in the social sciences; humanities areas tend to use "information" but both employ critical analysis to interpret.

T. Wong: SLO #8 is not an outcome.

L. Norris: #8 to be assessed upon graduation.

T. Wong: Could we not simplify the model by using SLOs alone and make sure they align with PASSHE and Middle States?

K. Clair: FYS should not be staffed by temporary faculty with short-term contracts. She directly asked Admin to speak to support for adequate staffing.

K. Hawkinson: This is exactly the kind of discussion hoped for and will take all of it under consideration. At previous institution, FYS was implemented and mainly staffed by tenure-track/tenured faculty. Agrees that this is ideal.

M. Vaughn: Sport Management had similar concerns about FYS. Noted HEA 102 is an existing Gen Ed. Is it not approved under the proposed model?

L. Norris: Will look into.

D.B. Johnson: Elem. Ed. fully in favor of FYS; is already doing it. Academics are foregrounded, with activities built in for holistic experience of the university. Most importantly, relationships are forged with faculty fully engaged in FYS. This is great for retention.

A. Arnold: Advocating putting FYS in the major?

W. Rogers: Special Education agrees. FYS in the major connects incoming with existing students; facilitates developing relationships with faculty/peers.

D. Wingrove: Affirms.

S. Mangold: Struggling students need experienced faculty to show them how to succeed academically.

A. Arnold: Agrees in theory about FYS in majors, but won't work for all.

S. Doll-Myers: Comm. Design has concerns with meeting BFA requirements with new model but should be ok.

D. Beougher: Committee discussed at length having FYS in the major. But what about students who change majors? Happens quite frequently. Could be a real staffing problem for smaller departments.

M. Gallagher: Better to keep FYS flexible. It's also good for students to develop relationships across the university.

D. Lea: History dept. is positive about model but has concerns about lack of rigor and lack of specificity in disciplines; no math or lab science requirement. How will SLOs be assessed?

M. John: Sociology has questions about language requirement. Study one language/4 semesters?

D. Beougher: Only 8 programs have a 4-semester language requirement.

R. L. Smith: PASSHE requires that all BA programs have some language requirement.

M. Cardozo: Geography has concerns about staffing due to its small size.

M. Gober: Faculty in Athletics support FYS and like program's ease for transfers.

R. Portada: Political Science also small; similar concerns about staffing.

J. Jedwab: Philosophy has concerns about timeline. Suggests a short-term solution to meet Fall 2018 deadline while taking time to get optimal program in place.

E. Kraal: How will science courses be approved for writing? Physical Sciences concerned about removing lab requirement, going from process to fact learning. Also needs a clear assessment plan before implementation.

L. Frye: How can breadth be assured in this model?

D. Beougher: SLO #8, transcript audits will determine if breadth is being achieved.

T. Wong: FYS must be content heavy to spark student curiosity. Faculty model this by their passion for their fields.

If model focuses on SLO, there will be breadth across the curriculum.

A. Arnold: We've heard from nearly all academic departments and all others who wanted to speak.

L. Norris: Please continue to email me with input from your constituents.

VII. As May Arise

None.

VIII. Adjournment:

A. Vogel moved to adjourn; second D.A. Johnson. Meeting adjourned 5:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

L. Norris

Secretary, University Senate