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Council of Chairs Meeting, January 25, 2008

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Council of Chairs
Minutes of Meeting
January 25, 2008
Room 349 – Drinko Library

Members present: Marty Amerikaner, R.B. Bookwalter, Mike Castellani, Kathy Chezik, David Hatfield, Dan Martin, Lang Reynolds, Chuck Somerville, Allen Stern

Guests: Pat Gebhart, Denise Hogsett, Larry Stickler, Debby Stoler

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Kathy Chezik. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

David Hatfield requested that someone be appointed to replace him on the Faculty Evaluation and Compensation committee because he is stepping down as chair of the Department of English. No one was nominated and it was decided to solicit volunteers/nominations by email.

Pat Gebhart, manager of Departmental Information Systems, made a presentation on CAPPS (Curriculum, Advising, and Program Planning), a BANNER process. It involved presenting an online “degree audit.” In CAPPS all degree requirements have been put online and a student’s record is compared to the degree requirements for the catalog under which s/he entered (or switched to at a later date). All courses, past and present, have been keyed in as well. The programming checks all requirements of every degree on campus including: course prerequisites and grade requirements (e.g. minimum “C”), allowable substitutions, programmatic GPAs, and transfer hours, for example. Faculty, students, and college advisors will be able to access CAPP through MILO, with students only be able to access their own records. CAPP will also allow students and their advisors to run “what if” scenarios to ensure that proposed courses will contribute towards graduation. This feature is particularly useful for students considering a change in major because the computer instantly checks how the old coursework will count towards the new major. A demonstration of the system was provided. The system is currently nearing the end of its testing phase.

Denise Hogsett, Director of the Career Services Center (CSC), made a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the CSC. Debby Stoler is the liaison to faculty and work with students to connect them to employers. Sue Wright is senior career councilor. Amber Bentley is a part-time employee who does job placement for students. Glen Midkiff will be doing public relations to get students to make use of the CSC. All, except Ms. Bentley are recently hired to the CSC. The university has purchased a license to *SIGIS* a computerized, self-guided program that allows students to set up a profile and use it to help them select and evaluate possible careers. For students who have already selected an occupation, it provides information about needed skill sets to obtain employment. Access is located on the CS website. Also at the CS website is their *Ease Job Link* which is a job posting website that students can use to find employment. This will make tracking student job placement easier at Marshall. The system has allows faculty to register as well to see what it is capable of doing. The presentation provides a list of all CSC services on slide 7. The CSC also provides speakers on a variety of career related topics, prints

resumes and business cards for students, and keeps credentials files for students. The CSC is developing the software for an eportfolio.

Larry Stickler, Faculty Senate President, informed the chairs on the progress on the updating of the core curriculum. Last March, Pres. Kopp requested that the faculty revise the core curriculum and base it around a set of learning skills, rather than a buffet of topics. This is because students today can be expected to change careers many times and so skills have become more important than content knowledge. He met with the budget, academic planning, and curriculum committees. In May, the Faculty Senate created a committee to study this proposal comprised of members appointed as recommended from those committees. The committee met weekly over the summer and then was replaced in the fall by an elected committee that took up where the original committee left off. In late fall, the elected committee voted to accept a “domain model” for the core curriculum (see attachment). This model would replace the *Marshall Plan*, but retains much of its features. All courses in the future core would include critical thinking and two of the domains. Current core courses might well be retained, but instructional methodology might have to change. This proposal is currently before the Senate for consideration. Page 2 of the attachment includes some details of the course distributions within the core. English is running a few pilot sections based on this model, with Fall 2009 as the target date for full implementation. Questions were raised about the presence of topics on the second page and how that was different from the *Marshall Plan* and how domains would be tracked in the new system. If this is passed by the Senate, the next phase of the curriculum revision is to apply it to individual programs.

The PowerPoint presentations used by each guest are provided with these minutes. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.