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Council of Chairs Meeting, February 13, 2009

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Council of Chairs
Minutes of Meeting
February 13, 2009
Ed Gross Room – Harless Dining Hall

Members present: Robert Behrman, R.B. Bookwalter, Maria Carmen-Riddel Michael Castellani, Kathy Chezik, Byron Clercx, Daniel Holbrook, Katherine Karl, Denise Landry, Anders Linde-Laursen, Steven Mewaldt, Burnis Morris, Ralph Oberste-Vorth, Jeffrey Pappas, Jennifer Perry, Lang Reynolds (for Julie Jackson), Charles Somerville, Donna Spindel, Allen Stern, John Vielkind, George Watson

Guests: Frances Hensley, Gayle Ormiston, Sherri Smith

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 p.m. by Kathy Chezik. The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Mike Castellani made an announcement that there would be a practice session for *Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol* on Friday, March 6. It might be a good way to introduce the events to Departments that haven't yet participated.

Sherri Smith made a presentation on the progress made by the Core Curriculum Committee.

- There will be 4 meetings during the week of February 16 for faculty to get information on the committee's progress and provide feedback to the committee. A draft (attached) of the proposed new Core was presented to members of the Council.
- The Committee is developing a strategy of decreasing the required number of hours for graduation from 128 to 121.
- Four-year plans of study are being developed that will front load the Core Curriculum to minimize lost hours if they change majors.
- "Critical thinking" courses will require instructor certification in much the same way that WAC courses currently do.
- The goal is to implement this by the Fall 2010 semester, although the exact timeline is still being developed.

From the floor:

- It was proposed that students not be allowed to double count a Core I critical thinking course as a Core II course as well. (Committee is doing this to minimize the number of required courses because of the decrease in number of hours for graduation. Double counting increases scheduling flexibility.)
- How will advising be handed? Changing the university's policy on advising is under consideration. (See below for additional information.)

Dr. Ormiston made a brief presentation.

- There has been interest from students in having 3 and 6 year plans of study developed. The former would serve students coming in with significant college credit, while the latter would serve part-time students.
- In 2003 the 4-year graduation rate was just over 20%.

- For the class entering in 2006, the expected 6-year graduation rate is *ca.* 48%.
- To improve graduation rates, a change in advising is under consideration. Two proposed changes include mandatory advising and having career services play a role in the advising process.
- The university has set a goal of 2000 student in the entering class of 2012. This is roughly an 80 student per year increase. Applications for both in- and out-of-state students are up by roughly 10% this year.
- Tuition and fees provide 26% of the University's operating budget. State appropriations account for 29% and the Foundation & Auxiliary activities fund the balance. Compared to other, similar, institutions tuition accounts for a relatively smaller amount of our budget. Money for construction projects does not come from the University's operating budget.
- Ecourses should be scheduled for programmatic needs. There will be no change in policy in the short term.
- Summer school
 - ◊ Based on the recommendations of a committee 2 years ago, summer school is being shorted from 6 terms to 4.
 - ◊ Scheduled e-courses should not reduce enrollment in traditional courses.
 - ◊ Over the past 4 years the university lost *ca.* \$1.3M. Last summer the total was *ca.* \$220K.
 - ◊ For this reason, no department's summer school offerings may lose money. The break even point is determined from the real revenue generated by tuition (currently estimated at \$100 credit hour) minus the cost of instruction (salary per contact hour + 15% for social security, etc.).
 - ◊ Summer school must pay for both itself (salaries, electricity, etc) and chair stipends so the whole program must generate a profit.
 - ◊ The deans agreed to a rough cut-off for any class of 12 to be offered, although this number can go lower if programmatic needs require it.
- There will be no new graduate assistantship waivers issued this year. Replacements will generally occur. Details on GAs will be announced within the next week or so.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.