

10-25-2011

Council of Chairs Meeting, October 25, 2011

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Recommended Citation

Marshall University, "Council of Chairs Meeting, October 25, 2011" (2011). *Council of Chairs Minutes*. Paper 20.
http://mds.marshall.edu/cc_minutes/20

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Council of Chairs Minutes
October 25, 2011 Drinko 402

ACTIONS NEEDED:

1. Contact Mike if you have suggestions regarding rules and structure of the Council.
2. Feel free to suggest agenda items.

Present: Alfred Akinsete, Jeff Archambault, Mary Beth Beller, Mike Castellani, Byron Clercx, Allison Goodman, Dan Holbrook, Denise Landy, Karen McNealy, Jeff Pappas, Bill Pierson,

Mike Castellani called the meeting to order.

Mike mentioned the options of external chair conferences. One major conference is in Orlando. We should be open to attending these meetings.

A meeting with the Travel Office is being planned. It was tentatively set for December 1 at 8:30 a.m., and it was suggested Administrative Assistants be invited to participate.

The Council of Chairs needs a one-semester replacement for Caroline Perkins on the Assessment Committee. Mike will send out a call for a volunteer.

A long Core Curriculum and FYS discussion ensued. The amount of AP credit accepted by Marshall tends to be larger than the actual degree credit waived in the Core Curriculum.

Does this dissuade talented students from attending Marshall?
How they would be credited depends on college here, but none would be CT, International or Multicultural.

The Council of Chairs will continue this discussion. Bill Pierson volunteered to write 2-3 proposals, circulate them, and then we will send that recommendation to the Provost. This policy is relevant to the recruitment and retention of students.

The impact of FYS was discussed. At 95 sections per year at \$1,800 per section, \$171,000 is being spent on implementation (estimate). Assuming \$85,000 for training, \$250,000 is being spent on FYS. The "old" UNI cost \$50,000 (estimate). Are we getting the necessary value from FYS. Perhaps too early to tell, but if retention from semester to semester (especially early years) is up, FYS will be pointed to as the cause of this trend. Not enough data for any official analysis.

FYS's impact on faculty teaching upper division courses was mentioned. Would it be possible to have other group teach the course (i.e., administrators, IT, etc...) in addition to faculty? Any other avenues to absorb faculty bleed from departments?

There was also a question about the tremendous amount of variation reported by students from section to section of FYS. It was mentioned that this year had more standardization, and the class is being received overall more positively.

A number of questions regarding FYS were voiced:

1. What are we trying to accomplish with FYS;
2. Is there a more cost effective, less intrusive way of doing it?
3. Are overall objectives of FYS known?
4. Should CATL give a common FYS final?
5. Have FYS faculty keep in contact with students they taught in previous FYS classes?
6. Are retention rates the primary driving force?

The Chairs decided to have a social gathering the second Friday of every month at 4 p.m. Byron Clercx was going to check on meeting at Tahona's.

The idea of developing rules and structure for the Council was discussed once again. Let Mike know if you have any thoughts. Terms, succession...

The new chair seminars being hosted by Academic Affairs was brought up. Should we ask new chairs to keep records of, and the questions discussed? Should we look into having a Council of Chairs seminar next year?

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Pappas
Vice Chair/Recorder