

3-7-2013

Council of Chairs Meeting, March 7, 2013

Marshall University

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/cc_minutes

Recommended Citation

Marshall University, "Council of Chairs Meeting, March 7, 2013" (2013). *Council of Chairs Minutes*. Paper 6.
http://mds.marshall.edu/cc_minutes/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Council of Chairs at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Council of Chairs Minutes by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

COUNCIL OF CHAIRS, 2012-13
Minutes of the Meeting on March 7, 2013, 3:30 p.m.
Room 402 Drinko Library (plus connection to SOP)

1. Attendance:

Chairs/Division Heads: Mike Castellani (CHM), Harlan Smith (FIN/ECN), Jeff Archambault (ACC/LE), Burnis Morris (JOUR), Dan Holbrook (HST), David Mallory (BSC), Marty Laubach (SOC/ANT), Allyson Goodman (MC), Steven Mewaldt (PSY), Fred Mader (MGT/MKT/MIS), Venkat Gudivada (CS), John Schloss (SOP), Paula Lucas (CI), Clay McNearney (RST), Karen McNealey (CD), Gary McIlvain (KIN), Jane Hill (ENG), Denise Landry (NUR), Christina Franzen (Classics), Jeffrey Ruff (RST), Kim Broedel-Zaugg (SOP)

2. Mike Castellani called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. (more or less)

3. The first topic of discussion was FYS

- A. In light of previous comments about having Graduate Teaching Assistants take on some FYS duties, the possibility of asking the College of Ed's Teaching Certificate candidates to teach FYS as part of their program was raised. Several chairs present noted that this would not work: (1) College-level teaching doesn't count towards the required hours in this program, and (2) these candidates are training to teach at the K-12 level, not at the college level. As such, these candidates would not benefit in any way from participating in FYS.
- B. Marty Laubach noted that the issue of FYS was raised at a recent Gen Ed Council meeting. He noted that in the ensuing discussion a consensus developed that FYS should be taught by a dedicated group of faculty.
- C. Council members asked to what extent the university knows that FYS is "working" as it is supposed to work. It appears to be a good program in theory, but the Chairs are not aware of any study that highlights the benefits of this program as currently practiced. Members urged the University to begin a careful study of the benefits, and costs, of FYS as soon as possible. And when it comes to the costs of FYS: Is this program, as currently practiced, too expensive for the university to carry in these budget-cutting times?
- D. As discussion proceeded, Council members raised the following questions and concerns:
 - 1) Do any connections exist between the current push towards Academic Restructuring, involving possible reductions in Reassigned Time, and the future of FYS?
 - 2) Do any connections exist between Reassigned Time and Course Enrollments? Would reductions in Reassigned Time lead to increased overall enrollment, or simply spread existing enrollments across more sections and classes?
 - 3) When a faculty member is taken out of a departmental course (possibly an upper-level specialized course for majors) to teach FYS, how can that faculty member be replaced, in the upper-level required course, most effectively? Members pointed out that faculty members have specialized training that does not allow perfect substitutability across courses. On occasion, as noted by at least one Chair, a tenure-track faculty member has been hired specifically to fill a specialty gap in the required departmental curriculum, but then has been shifted into FYS and an adjunct has then been hired to cover the specialized course that the tenure-track faculty member had been hired to teach. The Council concluded this thread of the discussion by

emphasizing that what's important for the students is to get the right people teaching the right courses. Not everyone, in any given department, can teach all the required courses. Shifting some of these people into FYS, therefore, has significant consequences for the quality of instruction in departmental curricula. This cost of FYS needs to be understood.

4) The Council would also like to know how Reassigned Time is being calculated and tracked at the university level.

4. Mike Castellani asked the Council to brainstorm some possible cost-cutting ideas that might be worthy of further consideration should the expected budget cuts materialize. The Council then went into Executive Session to hold this discussion.

5. The meeting concluded at the end of the Executive Session.