Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes
January 22, 2013
LC 243, 3:00-5:00 pm

Present: Lyn Bennett, Mark Bracken, Kat Brown, Arlen Card, David Connelly, Karen Cushing, Lars Eggertsen, Pierre Lamarche, Dan McDonald, Gary Measom, Russ Thornley, Elaine Tuft, Marcus Vincent, Ian Wilson, Laura Busby, Erin Haskell

Excused or Absent: Matthew Holland

• Call to order - 3:03 PM
• Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2013 Executive meeting. Minutes approved.
• VPAA – Ian Wilson
  o Adjunct situation continues to change and we are waiting for more interpretations on the rules.
  o Legislative session is beginning and UV is hopeful for a positive outcome on mission-based funding, equity money, and the STEM Initiative.
  o Sabbatical Funding – Several faculty were concerned over colleagues being asked to reduce their salary to 80% for the one semester when policy states funded at 100%. Ian explained that sabbaticals are funded based on a school/college’s ability to fund the sabbatical and that CHSS did not have adequate funding available and that the sabbaticals are still in the approval process. Faculty Senate would like to see hard decisions made instead of reducing the faculty salary and that Deans needs to communicate with the Department Chairs to be sure the funding is available. Ian will follow up with the other Deans to be sure they understand their school/college is responsible for funding the sabbatical.
  o Faculty concerned over the time it is taking for travel arrangements to be confirmed resulting in flights costing more.
• Academic IT – Laura Busby
  o Mark Bracken complimented Laura on helping him with predictive scheduling and Wolverine Tracks as it has helped him better schedule the appropriate number of courses.
  o Grade distribution information was provided to the Deans last June through Spring 2012 and noticed 47% of students that took face-to-face courses received an A or A-. It was 39% for Internet courses. She informed the Senate Executive Committee that this data is available if they want it. Russ Thornley indicated that the Curriculum Committee has reviewed this information and noted it is arguable whether or not there is a grade inflation problem and most Curriculum Chairs have reported back that they have some initiatives in place to address the issue at the school/college level. Academic Scheduling does have a few tools to help students plan their schedules. She will be refreshing with
fall grade data in the near future. Marcus Vincent wanted to know what the students’ perspective on their grade and the information they learned in class. Mark Bracken noted it really depends on the outcomes and Biology has gone to a national standard for comparison to see if the grade is really appropriate. Laura also indicated Academic IT is providing data regarding SRI statistics to each Dean and Department Chair.

- SELT – Lars indicated that the program was too difficult to implement and the committee is looking at revising some of the questions, but will not track other SRIs across the institution. Laura said departments can request specific questions be added to the SRI for specific courses, archived, and stored. Lyn wants to know if the SRI can be specific to 1000, 2000, 3000 level classes. Laura will investigate.

- David Connelly asked if there was data regarding retention of online students versus face-to-face students and within a course or program itself. Question should be asked in context of student success. Research showed that six programs theoretically could be completed online.

- A task force was created to look at add card issues dealing with 1) reduce attrition to increase student success, 2) concern to faculty/student in catching them up, 3) student responsibility, and 4) department authority on prerequisite completion. Some key problems are students forging signatures or overrides being input. A change process was proposed to Academic Affairs Council deleting the paper Add Cards. The only people having the ability to enter an override will be the Department Chair or Advisor by an email request from the instructor. During the 2nd week, the advisor or Chair will need to input an override in the system to allow the student to register for the class. The instructor can ask the student to send an email to you with specific information that can then forwarded to the advisor. With regard to the waitlist, is it possible for the instructor to just notify to add students to their class? Laura is not sure they want to automate certain aspects of the system. Faculty can request that the cap be bumped up for that specific semester by contacting Academic Scheduling. Need training or get admins involved. A guide is being developed to assist in the process. Two-tiered fee for late registration fee will be charged - $10 per course the 2nd week. 3rd week will be petition process and the cost will be $30 per course. After 3rd week, no petitions and no adds. Standard exception for individualized and internships. For research students, you might want to schedule a block class.

- Administrative Drops – faculty feels that by a certain date a student should be dropped automatically. Several requirements would need to occur such as every faculty member to take attendance. Problem arises because not all faculty have the same practice, which could cause conflicts among students. Deans would like to see the refund amount change during the third week to 50%. Faculty would like to see the W and decreased refund maybe have separate implementation periods.

- Information Item for next Senate – heads up to all faculty to report that add card is going away and let them know guidelines will be forthcoming and will be implemented for fall semester.
• Erin Haskell and David Connelly discussed the testing center regarding what are the students’ perceptions in general and how it relates to departments along with experience. On the faculty side, why does each department need it or not, then figure out where we are at as a university. Kat noted that Deans have put the issue upon Associate Deans to examine (how are they using it?) Mark Bracken noted that his students want the test on an optional day and have more time to take the test. Need to have available for accessibility students.

• David Connelly continues to develop item on constitution for Senate.

• Mark Bracken noted that the benefits situation does not look good. Waiting on recommendation from consultants.

• Need to obtain nominations for Senate President.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 5, 2013, in LC243.