

Academic Assembly
October 17, 2011
2:05-2:50pm, STCN 130
MINUTES

Present: John Bean (for Sean McDowell), Brenda Broussard, Mary Rose Bumpus, Carol Wolfe Clay, Isiaah Crawford, Karen Feldt, Sonora Jha, Tina Johnson, Charles Lawrence, Kristi Lee, Michael Matriotti, David Reid (in for David Arnesen and Terry Foster), Rob Rutherford, Kristen Shuyler, Chris Stipe, John Strait, Jeremy Stringer, John Weaver, Alanna Welsh, Jason Wirth.

- I. October 3, 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes.
- II. SEP Academic Subcommittee Report (*Guests: Marilyn Crone and Dan Dombrowski, Co-Chairs of Steering Council*)
 - A. 190 million dollar budget
 1. 90 percent of budget comes from tuition and fees (83 percent from tuition, 7 percent from dorm fees/other fees).
 2. Tuition dependency means enrollment is critical.
 - B. In order to fulfill aspirations, it would be logical to admit more students. However, there are facility and personnel limits.
 - C. Steering Council has developed a Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP) targeted for 2012 implementation.
 - D. SEP Academic Subcommittee report recommendations
 1. Identify strengths/weaknesses of programs, including funding issues.
 2. Drop weak programs (If weak programs are not dropped, it hurts strong programs).
 3. The report has been reviewed by SEP and reviewed by the deans with votes at every step and unanimous support.
 4. Prioritized strategy: meeting with E-team October 18. If approved, report will go to Provost and then Board of Trustees in November for final approval.
 - E. The report calls for an annual review, but there will also be quarterly meetings to modify strategies and ensure that schedule is on track.
 - F. AcA concerns about the report.
 1. Some programs do not have a lot of students, but are necessary for the mission, Core, or other programs. There is no set algorithm to balance the diversity of the number of programs with the financial constraints.
 2. The process to cut a program will coordinate with the program review process (part of assessment) already in place. There will have to be a final deciding body, not SEP.
 - a. The program review criteria include all of the questions set forth by SEP, including pressure for outcome assessment.
 - b. AcA is already involved in this process and will continue to have a significant input.
 3. The issue of how to measure student success after program completion considering variability between schools. Students may not find jobs that were directly linked to their degrees.
 - a. Short list of criteria and questions will be like a filter.
 - b. Even if programs don't look great on the short list, there is plenty of room for the program to make a strong case for itself.
 - c. Flexible to variable program needs.

- G. Conversation around undergraduate capacity (i.e. the tipping point for adding more faculty, housing, classrooms, lab space, faculty offices, etc.).
 - 1. Tipping point is 5,000 (currently 4,631).
 - 2. Also looking at a plan to increase the focus on adult learners in Continuing Education. The goal is to reach the level of 800 students over the next few years.
 - H. The effect on financial aid.
 - 1. The less the discount rate, the less underrepresented minorities are able to attend.
 - 2. There will be a pricing study conducted in January/February to inform tuition pricing strategies for 2013 and beyond. The study will also show what discount rates we can offer to both raise tuition and maintain our historical underrepresented minority percentage.
 - 3. Also launching a very aggressive capital campaign to raise resources to fund scholarship endowment.
 - I. The conundrum of tuition versus financial aid is a very difficult question that this study will inform on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We still want to maintain the best buy status (quality of education), and are aware that student loan debt can affect the career choices of students.
 - J. AcA recommends to SEP committee to produce a status report that would be available to the broader university community, including students, on the intranet.
- III. AcA Appointment to Graduate Council**
- A. Sub-body of AcA to focus on graduate education issues.
 - B. Appointment has been shifted to a future meeting.
- IV. Implementation of Core Update (*Guest: Jeff Philpott, Director, University Core Curriculum*)**
- A. University Core Implementation Committee (UCIC) has been meeting since early July and includes 10 faculty members, a librarian, 6 staff and administrators. Also working with ASSU.
 - B. **Recommendation to move Core Implementation to fall 2013 was approved today.**
 - C. General Principles of UCIC
 - 1. Operating in a way that is true to approved documents from last year.
 - 2. Led by faculty, open and transparent.
 - 3. Do no harm to current students and transfer students (no additional credits required).
 - 4. Feasible and manageable, with high quality and high standards.
 - D. Course development – first step is to create a 1 page course description/guidelines document (including course description, prioritized learning objectives, required documents/pedagogy) for each of the 13 courses.
 - 1. These documents will become the guidelines for faculty to design the course, communication expectations to students, and evaluate success.
 - 2. Series of upcoming workshops to develop guidelines for completion by the end of fall quarter.
 - E. Logistics of implementation are still being figured out (data entry in Datatel and catalog), section planning, adjustment of resources, agreements and transfer guidelines with community colleges, etc.).
 - F. Once new Core is up and running, UCIC will cease to exist and the Core will be governed internally.
 - G. Jeff will provide written or in person updates to AcA once a month.
 - H. There is an active Core website that includes a Core revision page (<https://www.seattleu.edu/core/revision/Default.aspx>).
- V. Meeting adjourned at 2:52pm.**