

Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee October 14, 2009

Approved 10-28-09

Educational Policy Committee

October 14, 2009 (Meeting #3)

Present: Geoff Bell, Gail Bier, Ashley Brown, Victor DeMeirles, Pat Dennis, Brittany DeNucci, David Gore, Jen Jones, Carmen Latterell, Fay Maas, Vince Magnuson, Nick Miller, Molly Minkinen, Mike Mullins, Pauline Nuhring, Megan Perry-Spears, Ken Risdon, Andrea Schokker, Gary Shute, Bilin Tsai, Nigel Wattrus

Excused: Maureen O'Brien

Absent: Tina Thielen Gaffey

The minutes from the 9-30-09 meeting were approved.

Lib Ed

A question was raised at our last meeting regarding the fine arts category and if courses in this category referred to application or theory. The discussion at our last meeting indicated that the answer was application. As a point of clarification, the lib ed proposal refers to both application and theory courses for the fine arts category. It was noted by a member that they would be voting under the understanding that there be flexibility in the implementation of these recommendations. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Lib Ed Task Force proposal. The motion was passed unanimously. Vince thanked the members of the Lib Ed Task Force for their long journey in bringing this proposal forward. Thanks in particular to the leadership of Task Force co-chairs Carol Bock and Bill Payne. A special thanks to the Task Force student representative Ashley Brown. She joined this committee as a sophomore and showed an uncommon depth of understanding regarding the value of higher education. It made her an easy choice as a student representative to this important committee. The Task Force put in a great deal of time and effort in developing this proposal and they have our sincere thanks for their work. The proposal will now move on to the Campus Assembly on November 10th. If accepted, it will then be forward to the chancellor for final approval. Implementation strategies, processes and timeline will be a very important next step. Implementation will be critical to the success of this program. Just as we put together the lib ed task force, we will need a group of very dedicated people to shepherd implementation. As liberal education is a requirement for the whole of the campus this is an extremely important issue to this committee. The process for approval of lib ed courses prior to implementation of the new program can be addressed to Bilin Tsai for consideration.

Agenda items

At our last meeting members were asked for agenda items they would like to see brought forth to this group in the coming year. Members had asked to have time to reflect on this topic and to review with their constituencies. Additional feedback from members regarding potential agenda items was solicited.

Online courses and how/when UMD would be adding more online courses. A guide for students taking online classes doesn't currently exist. More broadly, to discuss the role of online education at UMD.

The implementation of lib ed as it applies to study abroad offerings.

How can we help students successfully transition from high school to college? What do admissions criteria and high school achievement tell us about our students and how is this information shared with advisors? Related issues mentioned were admission expectations of students and advising out of high school. We want students to succeed, but perceptions and expectations are an issue. How and where this is handled is unclear.

Discuss the change in process for disability services and how students with disabilities work with faculty. Is this process working, are we serving students well with this new system?

Articulation issues with community colleges.

Going back to the discussion from our previous meeting, members were asked to help clarify more specifics from the topics brought forward at that time in order to hone in on the issues that are most in need of discussion.

Budget. What are the campus priorities? Look at campus wide policy and see whether the budget is in line with campus priorities.

Advising. What is the role of advising on our campus? Advising is critical to the success of our students. Advising is UMDSA's #1 initiative and they conducted a survey on advising last year. It was suggested that a report from UMDSA be used as a starting point for discussion. In addition, a campus wide task force was developed last year regarding advising and generated a report. It was suggested that the advising task force report be distributed for review.

Faculty hiring and programming. Are we hiring according to campus priorities? What guides our hiring practices?

Course access. How is course access tied to budget and faculty hiring? Course access is key to the vibrancy and quality of education. There is some anxiety amongst faculty regarding the use of grad planner because so many courses are full.

PSEO & CITS. How do PSEO and CITS credits impact retention and graduation? Many students take college classes in high school, but may not be developmentally ready to be full time students. What do we know about CITS course quality and its uniformity across schools? It was noted that CITS and PSEO are very different programs. If the schools are doing a good job, it can be very successful, and these can be some of our best students.

Articulating international education. Are three year undergraduate degrees from European institutions accepted for admission into UMD master's programs? This will be discussed in the international education subcommittee.

Internationalizing the curriculum. What is the breadth of UMD's efforts to internationalize the curriculum? Every student needs to have certain knowledge of how to function in a global environment. This goes beyond taking a single course as a lib ed requirement. As an example, engineers often work in international teams. How do we help educate our students to be comfortable with this interaction? This needs to be infused within existing courses in each discipline.

This list will be used as a starting place for future agenda items. The committee was thanked for the fruitful conversation.

Adjourned 3:50 p.m.