October 14th 2014
Minutes SEC/VPAA Joint Conference

Present: Peter Blass, Amelia Carr, John Folkins, Rachel Vannatta Reinhart (for Lisa Handyside), Rachelle Hippler, Kathy Hoff, Joel O’Dorisio, Allen Rogel, Michael Smith, Arne Spohr, Brian Kochheiser. Also attending David Border, Sheri Wells-Jensen.

Approval of Minutes from last meeting: Passed

Old Business
Math Emporium:
WDF data from Math emporium from the 13-14 school year. Dr Rogers presented raw data of the WDF rates from each section of Math from both Main and Firelands campus. There was no statistically significant difference between traditional classes taught 12-13, and the Math emporium classes in 13-14. There is still projected to be a steady improvement in the WDF rates over time as the proper support resources are implemented in ME.

Questions from SEC:
How much variability is there between teachers: In addition to raw data a separate analysis based on student profiles in High performing and low performing traditional classes was run, and the differences were not found to be linked to Student preparedness profiles. Admin will continue to inspect Math Emporium data.

Dr. Rogers: This is not about saving money we spend just as much on tutoring. We want higher pass rates to aid retention while still insisting on academic rigor.

Have we looked at success rates and tried to determine what makes some classes successful?

Is Math Emporium going to be Blue Sheeted? I don’t know.

Academic Honesty:
Dr. Rogers hands out several flow charts. “Student Guidelines for Academic Honesty Cases,” “Instructor Guidelines,” Academic Honesty Case flow, and “Student Code of Conduct Flowchart.” Makes case that there are several overlapping systems and this creates confusion for both Students and Faculty. Additionally the two systems do not communicate clearly between each other. Brian K. reinforces the idea that it is a confusing and cumbersome system for students.

Additional numbers are distributed showing the growth in the number of cases from 41 cases in 96-97 to 206 in the 12-13 school year. As cases have grown there is still no formal mechanism or administrative structure for following academic honest cases.
Are faculty reporting more?
Are we catching more?

Rodney: Our problem is that there is a 2 strikes policy. On the second offence the minimum penalty is suspension. The penalties vary widely based on which department the offence happens in. The penalties relate more to which department the offence happens in that what the offence is.

Faculty are supposed to administer both the initial hearing and any subsequent appeals, but often fail to meet deadlines. The legwork has fallen ad hoc onto administrative staff in the Provosts office. Adequate administrative support would cost an estimated $150,000 annually. Student Affairs already has this structure set up.

Joel: There is a proposal to combine the administration of cases with Student code of conduct in Student Affairs. Faculty have expressed reservation with moving standards and adjudication into Student Affairs. Can we develop a structure that allows faculty to control standards and judgment, but houses the administration in Student affairs?

Faculty: Maintain control of Standards and Faculty control of jury

Administration: housing AH in Student Affairs will increase equity in penalties and better serve the educational mission as well as save money on staffing.

Motion: to create Ad Hoc committee to: Combine Student Code of Conduct, and Academic Honesty Process and house the administration of the process in Student affairs.

The committee will:
- define the administrative structure
- Identify necessary charter changes
- Identify necessary student handbook changes
- Consider options to insure faculty retain control of judgment and application of Academic Honesty
- Consider options to insure that Student Affairs professionals retain control of Student code of conduct
- Ensure the free flow of information between AH and SCC

Members of the committee will be:
1 USG, 1GSS, 1 faculty from Academic Honesty, 1 dean of students rep, 1 associate dean, 1 classified staff currently administering AH, 1 member of SEC.
Role of Faculty Senate:
Joel hands out example of materials describing role of FS in a unionized environment from University of Cincinnati. No discussion

New Business
Questions for Francis Voll: Distribution of questions developed by the Faculty Senate

Brief discussion with a few editorial changes and a recommendation that questions be forwarded to Pat Pauken.

Issues and Concerns
Develop questions to be forwarded to President’s Panel:

How can we speed up capital construction projects?
How can we improve the channels of communication?
What are the longer term challenges in higher ed?
How can we be a leader/ maintain academic quality?

Submitted by Joel O’Dorisio, faculty senate chair, Oct. 30, 2014 for Kelly Taylor (absent)