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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #33
April 7, 2017
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Friday, April 7, 2017, in the HELIN Conference Room, Library, Vice Chairperson Conley presiding. Senators Leonard, Mahler, and Tsiatas were present. Senators Byrd and Sullivan were absent.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Ms. Neff had been in contact with Ms. Rachel Leveillee, coordinator of the Academic Testing Center, who had asked for suggestions on increasing use of the testing service. The FSEC discussed their impressions of the functionality of the Center.

3. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposal from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate (to be presented on April 20) to approve including on the academic transcript of graduate students a notation of completion of a Professional Development Badge in Diversity and Inclusion.
 - b. The Committee reviewed the process for proposing and approving courses in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program. The Committee confirmed that appropriate signatures of approval on course proposal forms were those of the academic department chairs, academic college curriculum committee chairs, and academic deans (or representative) of the faculty members who intended to teach the courses.
4. Director DiCioccio joined the meeting at 9:30 AM. She provided the FSEC with updates on the development of the General Education Program. She reported that Faculty Senate approval of S/U grading of D1 outcome courses had prompted the submission of many new D1 outcome proposals. She also reported that she was addressing the issue for department chairs of managing different instructors who teach multiple sections of a course who may not be familiar with the outcome rubrics. Director DiCioccio said that a meeting with associate deans was scheduled for April 21 to address this concern. Director DiCioccio reported that “gaps” (a shortage of courses) existed in the following outcomes:

A4 - Understand the context and significance of arts and design
C1 - Develop and engage in civic knowledge and responsibilities

C3 - Develop and exercise diversity and inclusion responsibilities

D1- Integrate and apply

G- Grand Challenge

She said that there would be a shortage 4800 seats in the program by fall 2018 if more courses in these areas were not developed. Discussion followed. The FSEC and the Director agreed that revisions of the wording of the rubric elements might be needed. Director DiCioccio explained that the need has arisen to develop a (general education) petition process to replace the current college-based process. Also, it had been brought to her attention that some upper classmen were seeking general education credit in the old program for new courses taken in the new program. She planned to discuss this with the associate deans on April 21. Director DiCioccio reported that she hoped to launch the General Education website in May. She said that she expected assessment materials for spring 2017 courses from faculty by the end of the spring semester. Faculty whose courses would be part of the fall 2017 assessment (A1 - STEM, B1 - Write Effectively, and C3 - Diversity and Inclusion) were recently notified that their courses had been selected. The Director reported that the Subcommittee on the Assessment of General Education (SAGE) planned to produce a report on the fall 2016 assessment by the end of the of August 2017. She said that her office and University College for Academic Success had hosted a general education course fair for students on March 29. The event was successful; 56 faculty participated, spotlighting their courses, and 323 students attended. Director DiCioccio said that the URI application to attend the AACU (Association of American Colleges & Universities) 2017 Institute on General Education and Assessment, May 31 – June 2, 2017, had been accepted. She would be attending along with Vice Provost Beauvais, members of SAGE, and one member of the general Education Committee. Director DiCioccio left the meeting at 10:15 AM.

5. ONGOING BUSINESS

- c. The Committee discussed its ongoing work to restructure the standing committees of the Senate. Revisions to By-Laws 4.13 were discussed, specifically with regard to the intended role of the administrator liaisons. Vice Chairperson Conley said that he had given thought to potential committee members to be part of the work over the summer to advance the restructuring and develop committee training.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff