MINUTES

APPROVED

Present: Sheila Barrett (HHS); Daryl Dugas (EDU); Todd Gilson (Honors Director, Ex-officio); Ed Klonoski (Acting Assoc. Vice Provost); Rave Meyer (LAS student)

Absent: Pat Anderson (Alumni Assoc-Ex-officio); Dhiman Chakraborty (CLAS); Elisa Fredericks (COB); Kerry Freedman (CVPA); Debbie Gettemy (HOUS-Ex-officio); Mike Konen (CLAS); Beth McGowan (ULIB);

Guests: Stephanie Torres, representative from Student Senate, Giuseppe LaGioia, President of the Student Association

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by D. Dugas to approve the agenda, seconded by S. Barrett. **Motion passed unanimously.**

II. NEW BUSINESS

Student Association President, Giuseppe LaGioia and Student Senate representative, Stephanie Torres were invited to today’s meeting to discuss issues that are concerns for students. Ms. Torres began by indicating that inconsistency within course instruction was a concern. This includes within departments as well as across disciplines. She spoke specifically about the amount of work given and how it varies to a great degree. In the case of an instructor giving just two essays for the entire semester – it doesn’t give students a lot of flexibility compared to a class where homework is given in addition to several tests.

The second concern Ms. Torres brought up was cost of textbooks. Students are concerned that the required textbook is not even being used. She indicated sometimes students will check the cost of the books required before enrolling in a course. S. Barrett expressed concern about this especially if it is a core course. There was discussion of more economical ways to acquire books, there are many online options that are less expensive than the bookstore. E. Klonoski said that students do have the ability to charge their books once financial aid has been accepted. He mentioned that financial aid disbursement doesn’t occur until after the add/drop period, which is after the completion of the second week of classes. All agreed that three weeks is too long for students not to have textbooks. Ms. Torres asked if there was a textbook affordability committee that looked into this; Klonoski indicated he was not aware of such a committee. Dugas added that he wasn’t sure if faculty were aware of textbook costs in general.

A third concern brought to the committee concerns academic advising. Both Ms. Torres and Mr. LaGioia relayed stories of students who were given inaccurate information from advisors that made them extend the amount of time for degree completion. S. Barrett said her area, Nutrition they have template that they follow when they do advising. Mr. LaGioia added that they have those in the College of Business also. E. Klonoski said that the degree paths are available online for students to view and use.
but isn’t sure if students are aware that the information is there. In addition, Ms. Torres said even with
the documents, she believes it is beneficial for students to meet with their advisor. D. Dugas
commented as they continue to gather information, he would be interested in how widespread this
issue is and where is the issue most prevalent, etc. E. Klonoski agreed and also mentioned that
currently a higher-level conversation about advising is happening on campus with one of the
recommendations coming from that conversation is better training for advisors. He said that this can
add the consistency that the students are calling for. S. Barrett said that when her area was part of
FCNS they held new majors meetings each semester and even held make-up meetings for student who
didn’t attend. Ms. Torres added that Nursing did that as well.

The last item she brought forward was the fact that some professors are less than enthusiastic about
their work which contributes to their demeanor and their approach in class including their grading as
well as the assignment they give. She did say that a lot of factors including what type of student people
are plays into that.

Mr. LaGioia said that he heard the same concerns as Ms. Torres mentioned as well as issues of
consistency of instruction and requirements within the same course. He mentioned one class in the
Accountancy department, where one instructor was extremely engaging and had homework
assignments and the other only offered three tests and a final. He pointed out that depending on
which type of student you are the method of instruction can have a greater impact on your grade.

Mr. LaGioia’s final item related to free printing for students. This can be quite a burden to students,
considering the amount of printing students need to do. He said his freshman year students were
allotted $14 in printing, last year it was $7 and this year zero. There was a brief discussion of the
Anywhere printers and the savings anticipated by the switch.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Student organization Surveys

While the students were still present they were asked to give their input on the student organization
surveys the D. Dugas created. After review, they both indicated that the survey was straightforward and
the wording was clear and understandable. Committee members felt the same. Dugas has been
working with the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development and they will provide the
contact information for the student organization leaders.

David Raymond Grant for Use of Technology in Teaching

E. Klonoski indicated that no applications were received by the January 13, 2017 deadline. The
committee discussed sending the application call out again, via direct email to faculty. It was decided
that the new deadline for submission would be March 3, 2017 and the committee can view the
submissions at their March 6th meeting.
EUIA/EUTA upcoming deadlines/timetable

The deadline for applications is Monday, February 13, 2017. The applications will be placed on the shared site and committee members will be asked to evaluate them. Each committee member will submit their rankings and those will be compiled for the March 6th meeting.

Various Methods for Faculty to learn of student concerns about Academic Concerns

The committee was given the document prepared by Chair McGowan on how faculty could learn of student concerns. The committee reviewed the document. E. Klonoski mentioned that at a recent marketing event he attended recently, they indicated that students are surveyed out. Initially students participate at a fairly high rate but then it drops off dramatically. R. Meyer indicated that surveys were fine as long as you give students something in return. If you offer a candy bar for completing a survey you will get a lot more responses than if you send it in an email. D. Dugas suggested using social media, perhaps a Facebook page. R. Meyer mentioned having QR codes to direct students. E. Klonoski mentioned that social media has to be monitored and constantly updated – therefore that is something that needs to be considered before moving in that direction.

E. Klonoski suggested that inviting the various, large population, student leaders to attend the committee meetings is a good approach. T. Gilson said old school focus groups with food is another method that can be used; providing students with a face-to-face opportunity to express their concerns. D. Dugas said that with the student government student visiting as well as information collected from the organizations – issues can be identified and the committee can extend an invitation based on the topic, i.e. academic advising.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

R. Meyer made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 p.m., seconded by D. Dugas. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Ratfield
Administrative Assistant to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost