

Curriculum Policies Committee 2015-2016
1:30 – 2:50 PM
Sacramento Hall 161

Minutes for Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Approved: April 19, 2016

Attending: Amata, Biagetti, Chalmers, Coats, Fell (Chair), Gibbs, Ingram.

Absent: Baldus, Burke, Croisdale, Murphy, Wall-Parilo, Keck, Meyer, Newsome.

Guests: Dr. Don Taylor.

1. Information Items

a. Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee Update

Second reading of UARTP document includes options for chairs serving on search committees; first reading of graduate learning goals: disciplinary knowledge, communication skills (written & oral), critical thinking, information literacy, professionalism, international global perspectives and professional ethics. The last 2 are difficult to assess and will be assessed differently by programs.

b. Deans Meyer and Newsome attended the Leapfrog training.

2. Approval of minutes from February 16.

Minutes should read that Liu offered a different conceptual model. Minutes approved with the correction.

3. Discussion Items

a. New business:

Faculty Senate By-Law changes for new assessment committee.

Time certain 1:45 PM: discussion with Don Taylor, Interim Assistant Vice President, Academic Programs and Educational Effectiveness

Chair Fell provided an overview of what has happened so far and the new proposal. He summarized Liu's and Kusnick's comments.

Dr. Don Taylor summarized our WASC efforts as a compliance issue for institutional accreditation and key entities – WASC (our regional accrediting bod), the U.S. Federal government, and the Chancellor's Office. Its other major value is for demonstrating program/educational effectiveness and accountability. He has observed more improvement and acceptance. The primary focus is on student learning and success. What do our students take away at time of graduation? The accountability is the result of the Spelling report and the problems it identified. Legislatures are unwilling to put more money into higher education because they are not seeing the outcomes they expect students to achieve. However, it also conveys to students the institution's expectations.

He asked: how is accountability measured? WASC emphasizes two major student success components, the first being graduation rates and time to degree. A second component is to show integration disciplinary competence as established by the faculty. Capstone experiences, qualifying assignment, etc. are accepted forms of demonstrated achievement. Program review exists for programs not credentialed or externally accredited. At the institutional level, we are not doing well. We negotiated 3 core competencies for our current WASC review: writing, critical thinking, and information literacy.

We have developed baccalaureate goals and are now in process of developing masters.

Taylor authorized the template without going to the Senate because we need to provide this type of information to WASC and to our Provost. At the time, Taylor couldn't make sense of our assessment efforts because of a lack of standardization.

Chair Fell asked Taylor his opinion on our biggest challenges? Taylor responded that long term was a culture change. The Senate did not support the resolution to create an Assessment Council in 2007, which resulted in the creation of the Provost's Assessment Committee (PACA). There needs more work in advertising assessment benefits, e.g. newsletter. Short term challenges include resource augmentation for enterprise, management, investment in resources; different models for helping with assessment. Resources would include technology, particularly user friendly that address the ability to upload documentation. We also need to build in Student Services and foster greater integration.

Unlike in the past, Academic Affairs is using a new funding model where each administrator will have a budget rather than centralized under the Provost. Taylor is making proposals for additional funding toward assessment. One possibility is to buy out Dr. Liu's faculty time for running OAPA.

A future agenda item is problems with program review.

4. 2015-2016 meeting dates

Sept 15; Oct 6, 20; Nov 3, 17; Dec 1
Feb 2, 16; Mar 1, 15; Apr 5, 19; May 3