

MINUTES

General Education Council, 3:30 PM September 23, 2014, ELL 205

- I. Meeting was called to order by Dr. Scott Drzyzga at 3:35 pm in ELL 205. Attendance at the meeting included: M. Moilanen, S. Bergsten, C. Sipes, D. Girard, B. Finucane, L. Cella, S. Drzyzga, A. Feeney, D. Godshalk, W. Kingsley, L. Bryant, R. Lesman, M. Lucia, K. Shirk, C. Botteron, A. Olerjarski, A. Seibert, K. Lorenz, A. James, F. Liu, J. Beck, B. Wentz, B. Henson, B. Meyer, J. Clements, H. Liu, K. Johnson, K. Moll, S. Stokely, J. Fowler, and C. Brackin.
- II. Dr. Drzyzga wanted to start the meeting by extending a wonderful thanks to Dr. Godshalk for his service and leadership this past year.
- III. Dr. Clement motioned, seconded by Dr. Moll, to approve the April 22, 2014 minutes. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Report from UCC-Dr. Shirk attended the Sept 2nd meeting. UCC did not review any new proposals, but a number of courses that were approved last spring had been forwarded and approved by the president. A French course that is offered as a face-to-face course at Shippensburg University is offered through distance education to other sister institutions. This raises questions about policies, and members of University Forum requested that this issue be brought forward to the Academic Outreach Committee and the Academic Policies and Standards Subcommittee of the UCC.
- V. Reports from Standing Committees-
 - a. Budget-Dr. Drzyzga reported that the budget committee is operating on \$19,770.50. The Provost rolled over funds from last year and gave us full funding again this year. Such funds provide fantastic opportunities to get word out to faculty and generate innovative activities. One proposal had been submitted in August. It clearly and diligently followed all the procedures and stipulations required for funding, however due to the late date of the first GEC meeting and the fact that standing committee members have not been set yet, a discussion arose to have the entire GEC review proposal and support the grant. Dr. Godshalk addressed concerns about forgoing the standard procedures. It was stressed that this will not to set a precedent but to accommodate a strong proposal with a fast approaching date. Dr. Clements motioned, seconded by Dr. Seibert to suspend normal procedures. All were in favor and the motion carried. Dr. Moll motioned to approve the proposal, seconded by Dr. James, all were in favor and the motion carried.
 - b. Assessment-Dr. Girard reported that the committee had met during the summer to review the standardized testing that was conducted last spring to graduating seniors. It represents one point in time so no meaningful comparisons can be made yet, but it will ideally work toward a long term assessment. Several departments had sent their assessment plans to the committee last spring and many departments filled out an accompanying survey. The goal is to accommodate departments that already are doing assessment and match them to general education. A discussion arose as to the wording in the Middle States review. In summary they don't like our current assessment state but like the direction we are headed.
 - c. Program-Dr. Drzyzga reported on the status of the program revision. Last spring, many workload-related questions were asked but the committee had insufficient data to provide answers. Over the

summer Dr. Drzyzga worked with department chairs and the registrar's office to account for every class and every student being supported. He asked people to take the matrix to their department chairs to make sure the course data are accurate and verify the numbers are correct. If so, the program can begin to move forward and estimate how many students and faculty might be impacted by revisions.

- d. Dr. Drzyzga reviewed the preliminary report from Middle States that emphasizes reorganization with the intention to support academic values on campus and student learning, and that the University has to carefully integrate assessment with the program to get reliable, consistent data. A few unanswered questions were generated on who provided Middle States with information and the importance that our revision of the program is definitely still in draft form. Clearly a few mistakes in the report exist and there is some uncertainty as to the status and interpretation.

- VI. Dr. Drzyzga met with co-chair Dr. Mike to organize standing committees. The Assessment Committee has L. Bryant, J. Fowler, D. Girard, K. Johnson, H. Liu, S. Morin, and K. Shirk assigned to it. Dr. Girard was asked to organize the first meeting. The Budget Committee has assigned J. Beck, R. Lesman, F. Liu, M. Moilanen, and A. Seibert assigned to it. Dr. Seibert was asked to organize the first meeting. The Program committee must include representatives from different colleges, and the members include D. Godshalk, P. Peet, C. Botteron, K. Lorenz, S. Bergsten, A. Predecki, B. Wentz, and J. Clements. Dr. Drzyzga will organize the first meeting. The Entry-Year Experience (EYE) committee has E. Galioto, W. Kingsley, M. Lucia, K. Moll, and C. Sipes assigned to it. Dr. Moll was asked to organize the first meeting.
- VII. Finally just a few announcements, the approved budget will allow a general education program on campus to occur this week, and in January a 190 course will take students to Curacao, and special recognition to Sherri Bergsten and Tim Maret for receiving the Provost's Extraordinary Service award. All these activities are part of the exciting news from general education.

VIII. Dr. Botteron motioned, seconded by Dr. Shirk, to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 4:25 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison E. Feeney