INTRA-UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

October 22, 2013; 8:30 AM
215 Business Building

PRESENT: Tim Palmer (vice-chair), Harold Aurand, William Butler, Peter Eberly, Joseph Enama, Zachary Irwin, Dennis Jett, Jeffrey Knapp, Michael Krajsa, Tim Lawlor, Emily Miller, Mahdi Naseredding, Richard Shurgalla, Jane Wilburne, Alex Yin

ABSENT: Omid Ansary, Constantino Lagoa, Nicholas Rowland (chair), Binh Le, Michael Wolff

VISITORS: Dan Murphy, Director, Office for Student Orientation & Transition

I. The minutes from the September 10, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved

II. Chairs report- Tim Palmer reviewed items discussed at the 10/21/13 Chair’s Meeting that were pertinent to the IRC Committee:
   a. Many of the committees are active in discussions regarding engaged scholarship.
   b. Affordable Care Act changes in health coverage for those working 30 hours or longer per week have led to a reassessment of part-time faculty and student work-study programs. This may have some effect on the current report in progress on Fixed Term Faculty.
   c. The Faculty Affairs Committee has noted that in a 2008 report by IRC a point was made for annual reviews of administration. They are planning on doing a survey to assess whether these are currently being done and will be contacting the chair regarding input from IRC.
   d. Admissions Committee reported that LionPATH presentation will be at the December 2013. Whether this will have an effect on standardization of curriculum between campuses has not discussed.
   e. Admissions Committee is reviewing course scheduling with regard to the question of whether there is a maximum number of credits/semester that would lead to increased tuition.

III. Dan Murphy, Director, Office for Student Orientation & Transition Programs was invited to meet our committee nearly a year after his previous visit.
   a. Mr. Murphy has been in his current position for nearly one year. He is aware of this committee’s interest in transitioning student within the institution. However, his office’s focus has been focused primarily on the new orientation program. He hopes to work more in the area of transitioning students in the near future.
   b. The New Student Orientation seems to have been quite successful with little in the way of difficulties secondary to the two day schedule.
   c. In the area of Student and Family orientation the students were positive with nearly all the questions of the evaluation. Questions with less than 50% Agree/Strongly Agree were:
      i. Making connections with other Penn State families (44.5%)- however, this was not identified as a priority for the Parents & Family cohort.
      ii. Making connections with key staff (48.3%)- the office is determining what role the number of faculty might play in future programs
d. There is some confusion among students as to the role of the Penn State Reads program in enhancement of the intellectual community. There may need to be better connections made through the first-year seminar instructors.

e. The Transfer and Change-of-Campus orientation day will be a focus in coming months. Much of the information may need to be initiated at the CC when the students receive word that they will be matriculating in the Spring. This may require some standardization of message to these students while also remaining sensitive to the individual CC resources.

f. The sub-committee on student transition plans on working with Mr. Murphy to assess the role of social factors in GPA drop of transitioning students.

g. The committee emphasized the desire to aid Mr. Murphy in whatever ways he feels will be helpful.

IV. Subcommittee Meetings

a. Subcommittee for the “Report on University Assessment”
   i. Reviewed Goals and information needs for the report
   ii. Dr. Yin will be working with the committee on information needed.

b. Subcommittee for the “Internationalization of Penn State Report”
   i. Have requested that Dr. Rowland invite Dr. Adewumi, Vice-Provost to discuss the status and vision for Global Programs
   ii. Much of the upcoming work will involve assessment of current programs, student interest at UP or CC, and possible identifications of best practices for identification, advising, and facilitation of international experiences with all students in the University system.
   iii. The sub-committee discussed how initiatives should also incorporate students at the Commonwealth Campuses, where there has been less or a focus on study abroad.
   iv. The idea was discussed whether CC have an individual identified with the role of advising students who have interests in international experiences. It was also discussed that financial issues may play a significant role in student interest at CC.
   v. The committee also plans on investigating whether the Faculty Senate has a specific role Programs of Internationalization.

c. Subcommittee for the “Planning for Fixed-Term Faculty Report”
   i. The committee discussed the importance of “stability” within the institution with specific regard to security and recruitment of faculty, and how that is affected by the use of FT positions.
   ii. The coming weeks the committee is planning developing information on numbers and roles of FT faculty particularly with regard to expectations on how FT2 faculty are used, supported, and future vision of their use within the individual campuses.
   iii. The upcoming Committee on Faculty Benefit information regarding ACA impact on employment will likely play a role in the issues discussed in our report.

d. Subcommittee for the “Student Transition Between Campuses Report”
   i. The subcommittee took an opportunity to review the charge from the Senate and work to develop a basic outline of the report.
   ii. Information on GPA changes supplied by Mr. Yin were reviewed and appear to be more through, but less optimistic than previous information.
iii. Dr. Palmer & Dr. Yin will work to try and determine whether information can be obtained to determine if the GPA drop continues throughout the UP experience or into the second semester of the Junior year.

iv. Graduation rates for the 2008-2010 numbers will not be available until 2014-2016, making these differences difficult to compare to previous year’s information.

v. Some of the committee will work with Dan Murphy to better define current status, review planned programs, and consider how to evaluate the success of current practices.

vi. The committee will work to identify campuses & colleges that appear to have more success among their transitioning students in an effort to identify “best practice” models.

V. The subcommittees were urged to proceed with their planning and development for update at the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of IRC will be December 10, 2013 in 215 Business Building

Minutes submitted by Nicholas Rowland, Committee Chair