SENATE COMMITTEE ON OUTREACH
Minutes for Meeting #1, September 9, 2014

Members Present:
Bridges, Copeland, Harrison, Henry, Kelly, Lamont, Rybka, Samuel, Weidemann, Winch, C. Yarnal

Members Absent:
Alter, Calvin

Guests:
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The minutes of the April 29, 2014 meeting were amended to delete a question; approved as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Welcome and opening remarks by the Chair

OLD BUSINESS
Overview of committee reports and actions from 2013-2014.

Harrison recapped the work of the committee last year, including:

- Prior Learning Assessment - Weideman says that a position will now be funded to lead this at Penn State.

- ARSSA-PHEAA – Financial Aid and Penn State Non-resident Learners. A larger joint report should be ready early Fall.

- Extension Update (Informational) including how is it funded, how can Extension move forward with fewer resources, etc.

- Overview of Resources for Faculty Teaching Online - Dave Hall wrote the report by the PSU Online Steering Committee which stressed the process for developing online courses, looking at how faculty develop online courses and what resources are available to them; we also need to consider the P&T implications. Over the summer this group became Digital Learning. Harrison asked how we could incorporate our issues with our Senate committee. We don’t have a member on Digital Learning. Chair Kelly will contact Beth Seymour who is on the committee. Harrison suggests that we need to have this embraced at the highest level in the University and all the way down; it needs to become part of P&T workshops, etc. This is a huge cultural shift with doctoral students teaching online and 1/3 new faculty this year having taught online. Arts & Architecture teaches 30% of its courses online.
• Engaged Scholarship and Outreach – ES is trying to provide a crisp definition that could be measurable and actionable. Outreach is considered anytime we share with the community and it overlaps with Engaged Scholarship which is reciprocal with the community – a two-way street. C. Yarnal is chairing Engaged Scholarship. There is a real need to define the barriers to and the rewards for faculty going through the tenure process with regard to Engaged Scholarship efforts.

• MOOCS – Anthony Robinson from EMS joined us for a discussion of his PSU MOOC course and to discuss MOOCS in general.

• Report on Outreach Activities – final draft survey that had been circulated was not sent to Dean Dewey (ALC) for distribution this summer. This is a large project that should produce a report in the spring. The first goal is to expand the definition of outreach as much broader than the current concept of big programs like Extension and World Campus. We are the Outreach Committee but we know so little of how broad outreach is at Penn State and want departments to begin seeing their activities in a new light. Once we gather results from the questionnaire, we need to ask how we promote and value these outreach efforts at Penn State.

NEW BUSINESS
Introduction of all committee members
Discussion of this year’s reports and formation of sub-committees

• MOOC Update – Faculty are switching platforms away from Coursera. There are interests outside the Senate as well as among three Senate Committees. Informational report to Senate in March 2015.

• Extension Update – Lamont will approach Dennis Calvin to discuss with the Outreach Committee in December. Informational report to Senate in January 2015.

• World Campus Update – Weidemann will work with faculty and World Campus. Informational report to Senate in December 2014.

• Faculty Resources and Faculty Development - World Campus – Informational report to Senate in January 2015.

• Program Development for Online Classes (with UE). Spans undergrad and graduate education. Will review report and work with Weidemann. Informational report to Senate in January 2015. (Harrison, Lamont, Henry and Samuel)

• Financial Aid Report (with ARSSA) – Informational report to Senate in March 2015.

• Outreach Activities Across Penn State – Informational report to Senate in March 2015. (Copeland, Rybka, Winch)

• Prior Learning Assessment – Informational report to Senate in April 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM
Minutes submitted by
Ann Copeland