Outreach Committee of the Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2013

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Chair Seymour started the meeting at 8:34am.

In attendance were: Blanco, Bridges, Copeland, Gifford, Harrison, Henry, Lamont, Lengerich, Rybka, Seymour, Weidemann.

Absent: Alter, Calvin

The meeting was conducted as follows:

1. Introductions

2. Approval of the April 2013 minutes

3. Announcements from the Chair

4. Waiting for a report of task force on “credit for prior learning”. This will inform our response.
   a. The Outreach committee will receive a report from the Prior Learning Assessment Task Force once it has been reviewed by Provost Jones. Ken Thigpen is chair of PLA Task Force. The Task Force was originally charged by Interim Provost Rob Pangborn.

5. Brief discussion of the priority items:
   a. Overview of Resources for Faculty Teaching Online
      i. This has been a priority item that the Outreach committee has discussed for two years. The Penn State Online Steering Committee (PSOSC) charged a subcommittee of its members to tackle this subject. This subcommittee is chaired by David Hall, and should release a report by the end of the Fall 2013 semester.
      ii. The Outreach committee will review that report once received, and present an informational report to the Senate.
   b. Financial Aid (PHEAA) and Penn State non-resident learners
i. Anna Griswold has updated the PSOSC on the status of PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency) grants. These grants, under the current interpretation of Pennsylvania law, are not available to World Campus students or resident students taking more than 50% of their credits online during a given semester. PHEAA is establishing a pilot program, and Penn State has been invited to participate, that will now include the World Campus students. Seymour will ask Griswold to present a report to the Outreach Committee, providing an update on the status of these grants for World Campus students.

c. Review of Extension:

i. Last April, the committee decided that it was time for a review of Extension, and that this type of report should be generated every two years for the Senate. Since this is the second year since reorganization of Extension, a report in the Spring should be able to assess the impact of the reorganization. Seymour will work with D. Calvin to generate a report for the committee to review.

d. Report on Outreach activities across Penn State

i. This priority item is broad, including those aspects of outreach that do not exclusively involve World Campus, Extension and Continuing Education. The committee decided to form a subcommittee to tackle this topic.

ii. Copeland, Lengerich, and Rybka volunteered to begin work on a plan for reporting on these activities

e. Brief discussion of MOOCs at Penn State and lessons learned.

i. C. Weidemann will present two reports to the full Senate, one during the Fall and one in the Spring. The first report may be ready for the October meeting. He shared that he thinks it is imperative that faculty with MOOC teaching experience participate in these presentations.

6. Seymour led a discussion on engaged scholarship.

a. Janet Connor was not able to make the committee meeting on time, but will present a report to the committee at the October meeting.
b. The committee has been asked by Chair Yarnal to present two reports to the Senate, an short informational report by the January meeting, and an advisory and consultative report for the April meeting.

c. Nine of the 15 University Senate standing committees will be presented portions of this report together. The committees involved are: Student Life, Undergraduate Education, Outreach, Global Programs, Educational Equity, Research, Faculty Affairs, Curricular Affairs, and University Planning.

d. The two questions that the Outreach committee has been asked to address are:
   i. How can engaged scholarship strengthen the bonds between the undergraduate experience and the outside world?
   ii. How can engaged scholarship contribute to World Campus, making it a distinguishing characteristic of online education at Penn State?

e. The committee formed a subcommittee to start the work on the informational report. Members include: Seymour, Bridges, Blanco

7. Overview of program development and approval process across University concerning Online Delivery

   a. The committee formed a subcommittee to start the work on this item. Members include: Harrison (hbx@psu.edu), Gifford (alg1014@psu.edu), Henry (jch164@psu.edu), Lamont (wjl1@psu.edu).

   b. Weidemann will provide support and serve as a liaison.

8. Full committee adjourned at 10, with subcommittees meeting to start to coordinate their work.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Seymour, Committee Chair