Senate Committee on Outreach  
Oct. 22, 2013  
Minutes

Members Present:  Blanco, Bridges, Copeland, Vice Chair Harrison, Henry, Lamont, Rybka, Chair Seymour, Sidhu

Members Absent:  T. Alter, D. Calvin, A. Gifford, E. Lengerich, C. Weidemann (J. Conner attended the meeting in his absence)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Seymour @ 8:34.

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes for September 10, 2013: The minutes from the meeting were approved with no amendments.

3. Discussion on Engaged Scholarship:

   Janet Conner from Outreach presented a report to the Committee on Engaged Scholarship. The hope is to encourage an out-of-classroom academic experience to complement classroom learning. Engaged Scholarship opportunities include study abroad, service learning, internships, capstone courses, and undergraduate research projects.

   Penn State has a long history with leadership on this issue. Events are planned over the next year and a presentation will be made at the Faculty Senate meeting Oct. 22, 2013 to launch this initiative/discussion. Penn State would like to be a leader in scaling this effort to include the World Campus.

   A subcommittee of our Outreach committee (Seymour, Bridges and Blanco) is discussing two questions in particular in order to contribute to a short informational report (for January) and an advisory and consultative report (for April) before the Senate.

   The committee discussed the dimensions of Engaged Scholarship - largely an undergraduate effort that can build on the successes of already established programs and capstone courses. There will be challenges for smaller campuses that may not have established networks or local resources in place for internships and the like. The key is advisors; we need to make it easier for students to figure out who to go to and how to find opportunities. This is more difficult with interdisciplinary fields of study.

   The larger question of how ES can scale to the World Campus to make it a distinguishing characteristic of online education at Penn State is more challenging given how dispersed the community is. The group suggests talking to the colleges and creating a Best Practices document that would provide guidelines and examples of Engaged Scholarship. This is a strategic planning year and Harrison expressed that it should immediately be forwarded as part of every unit’s strategic planning process. J. Conner indicated that she would take this suggestion to the Engaged Scholarship Council for their consideration.
4. Update on Priority Items
   a. Credit for Prior Learning:
      The report is done and being reviewed by the Provost. Seymour will bring the result of that consultation to the committee, when available.
   b. PHEAA:
      Anna Griswold will present an update on the PHEAA scholarships at the next meeting in December. She was initially invited to present a report at this meeting, but had to present information to ARSSA (Admissions, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid) concerning provisional students. There are some concerns related to the Financial Aid eligibility of provisional students as some aspects of Penn State policy are not in line with Federal guidelines. ARSSA will be looking into this.
   c. Overview of Resources for Faculty Teaching Online:
      A report is being worked on by a subcommittee of the Penn State Online Steering Committee. This subcommittee plans on completing its work and presenting its report by the end of fall semester.
   d. Report on MOOCs:
      Due to logistical issues, the planned report on MOOCs for the October plenary meeting was shifted until the December meeting. Once Seymour has received the paragraph summary of the scheduled report from Weidemann, she will distribute it to the Outreach Committee for comments and approval. The deadline for submission to the Senate Office for consideration of the report is Nov. 1, so please look for the email concerning this report next week. The Committee is also charged with presenting another Informational report on MOOCs for the April meeting.

5. Outreach Survey: Copeland asked for some background on the Report on Outreach Activities across Penn State and possible survey that is on our priority list this year. Conner said that a previous survey was done at the time of the UniSCOPE report in 1998 and probably one hasn’t been done since then. Conner suggested reviewing the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities *Returning to Our Roots* [http://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=187](http://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=187)

6. Adjournment: following discussions in our working groups, the meeting adjourned around 10:00 am for most attendees.

Minutes submitted by

Ann Copeland