Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education

12/10/2013


Absent: Paul E. Barney, Christian M. Brady, James P. Crawford, Charles A. Hughes, Fredric Weber

Committee called to order by chair H. Durell Johnson at 8:35.

1. The minutes of the October were discussed and approved, with two revisions.

2. Durell Johnson was unable to attend the Officers and Chairs meeting on December 9 because weather and traffic delayed his travel. So there were no announcements from the Officers and Chairs meeting.

3. There was a lively discussion about the Engaged Scholarship Legislative Report with both the language and the content of the report being critiqued:

   Questions were raised about the purpose of the initiative and how engaged scholarship fits with what we already do. There was agreement that faculty who want to engage should be supported and that there would need to be a structure to help students find these experiences and help faculty support and supervise them.

   There was objection to making engaged scholarship a requirement given the difficulty in making it work on the scale that would be required. (It was pointed out that the statement as written does not imply endorsing required participation.) There was an objection to the phrase in the statement “knowledge to be useful must be deployed” with the sentiment that not all education is about career and money. The committee expressed the feeling that any Engaged Scholarship initiative should not create burden, financially or otherwise.

   There was general agreement that engaged scholarship should not be mandatory but general support for opening up more opportunities and encouraging faculty and assisting them in doing it well if they choose to be involved.

4. Following the committee’s discussions at the October 22 meeting about shortening the “add period” Durell Johnson had drafted a revised add policy. After discussion of the intention of the policy there was general support for the idea, but acknowledgment of a need to work on the language. Questions were addressed about the purpose and effect of the current $6 fee, and how it does not act as a deterrent. If a deterrent is the purpose, the suggestion was made to increase the fee to $100, as some other schools do. Another discussion topic was how the new LionPath system will affect this.
5. As time was running short, Chair Johnson suspended additional agenda items until our next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.

Minutes submitted by Albert Bartlett