Academic Affairs Council Meeting  
Monday, October 11th, 2010, 2-3:00 pm  
107 Lab of Mechanics

Minutes

Council members present
Suzanne Hendrich, FSHN, Chair of AAC  
Paul Anderson, Landscape Architecture & Agronomy, College of Design  
Lee Burras, Agronomy, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Michael Clough, Curriculum & Instruction, College of Human Sciences  
Brad Dell, Music & Theatre, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
David Holger, Associate Provost  
Greg Luecke, Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering

Guests present
None

Approval of previous meeting minutes
Minutes of September 13, 2010, were approved as written.

Committee reports

(a) Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee  
David and Suzanne summarized the primary business of the FSCC as review and approvals of catalog materials and course-specific details and concerns. A campus-wide issue involves Library 160 revisions, which include a change from 0.5 to 1 credit. For some programs, this impacts the total number of credits required; however, for many programs this reduces the number of free choice elective credits. The Computer Coordination Committee has been enlarged and has been active in reviewing degree proposals and course change proposals.

(b) Academic Standards and Admissions (AS&A)  
Lee reported that there are currently no pressing issues; however, there are several new proposals for special grade point requirements and minimum course grade requirements for graduation that need review. Also, there has been increasing discussion and interest in the recently implemented Regent Admission Index (RAI). Council members suggested that a summary be prepared and evaluation made of its impact on admissions and retention rates. Suzanne will ask Faculty Senate Executive Board members for their ideas about the questions the analysis and evaluation should answer. These questions may involve, for example, the retention rate for students admitted with an RAI in the 235-245 marginal range. This report, when completed, could be presented to the Faculty Senate.

Old Business
No action items.

New Business
AAC members continued discussion of issues that the AAC should address this academic year.

David commented on the first item in Suzanne’s Email: potential change in the Faculty Handbook 10.4.3 policy on excused absences for students who miss class due to travel for official university business. He said that no cases have reached him in the past five years because they apparently have been resolved at program, department, or
college levels. Therefore, there may not be a pressing need for change. An issue recently raised by GSB is the need for clarification on guidelines for dead week activities. Greg volunteered to review the current guidelines and report to AAC ideas for clarification.

David also reported that there is increasing interest in electronic alternatives to paper forms for course adds/drops (obtaining signatures and approvals). This interest extends to other academic forms also. Lee added that a related need is for an electronic alternative to paper experimental course forms. David suggested developing a comprehensive list of priorities to help direct limited resources to where the needs are greatest.

Brad suggested a review of the impacts of recent budget cuts and the RMM on academic programs. AAC members agreed and suggested specific issues, including curriculum, course offerings, class sizes, faculty load, TA responsibilities, and instructional support staff. From a shared governance viewpoint, Suzanne suggested a focus on processes (inclusive or exclusive?) used to make decisions about limited resources.

Suzanne and others suggested that outcomes assessment deserves more attention. David and others reported that outcomes assessment is receiving additional attention in national and regional accreditation standards. This is one of the recently published goals of the Board of Regents: each program must have an outcomes assessment plan and implement it. Paul supported the help previously provided by Mary Huba and Kevin Saunders. David reported that there are plans to hire a replacement for Kevin. One way to approach learning outcomes at the university level is to identify undergraduate core outcomes.

Suzanne reminded AAC members that soon it will be time for a periodic review (again) of undergraduate requirements for US Diversity and International Perspectives.

What other issues should the AAC address this academic year?

Meeting Adjourned at 3:01 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, October 18, 2010, 2:00 PM

Minutes prepared by Paul Anderson