University Curriculum Committee

Meeting Notes

April 28, 2011

Present: Pittman, Levin, Acklin, Dungan, Smith, Walsh, Armstrong, Cedar Face

Guests: Dee Perez, Jonathan Eldridge, Matt Stillman, Fredna Grimland,

The meeting began at 2:05 p.m. Minutes from the April 21, 2011 meeting were accepted.

*Learning Commons and Academic Achievement Seminars.*

Jonathan Eldridge presented data about need for Academic Achievement Seminar classes with a Learning Commons designation. Typically about 16% of freshmen are placed on academic warming. Many students would benefit from increased intervention to develop skills relating to studying, organization, and ‘Executive Function.’ We now have a pilot, USEM 110 that helps at-risk students which has been very successful. The plan is to transition from USEM to Learning Commons as a department, and to add new classes with academic achievement content. USEM 185 (writing focus) and 110 (academic success focus) can be combined effectively. Matt Stillman developed a “risk index” that identifies students by attrition factors; at-risk new students will be advised into LC classes in the fall. LC210 is for transfers. LC 120 and LC 130 will be for students still at-risk. Effectiveness will be measured with several assessment mechanisms. Learning Commons initiatives will include:

* 1. Academic Boot Camp (LC 101) before fall term.
  2. Fall term Academic Achievement Seminar (LC 110/220) 5-week, 1-cr course.
  3. Winter Term Academic Achievement Seminar (LC 120/130).
  4. In the future: Additional tutoring for high-failure classes, more classes on writing skills, career services, etc.

A discussion ensued. To use the new Learning Common s (LC) designation, we need UCC approval (Stillman). Can we vote on a new prefix designation? (Cedar Face) Can we bypass this? (Pittman) Eldridge stated that the intent is to bring all LC courses to UCC and Senate for approval using normal mechanisms in 2011-2012. Should we use 199 as the temporary number, which is the typical way that classes are piloted? (Smith) Armstrong felt it would save a lot of time to use the real numbers so that these don’t need to be changed. She clarified attributes for Learning Commons classes.

Dee Perez will get paragraph about LC classes to the Curriculum Committee in time to vote next week on the new LC prefix. We will talk more about pilot course numbers next week, and vote on the LC prefix. Course proposals for all Learning Commons classes will be sent to UCC next year for approval.

*Honors.*

Fredna Grimland arrived for a discussion of Honors catalog copy and courses. There was a discussion about the three varieties of Honors, which Fredna clarified:

* Graduation with Honors in the Major
* Graduation with University Honors
* Graduation with both Honors in the Major and University Honors

Walsh noted that papers passed down from previous coordinators of Honors, and/or and the Honors web site at www.sou.edu/honors, do not preclude the UCC approval process for course creation and catalog changes. The discussion was cut short due to lack of time, and will continue next week. Jim Klein will be attending the meeting next week for the Honors discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15. Notes submitted by Mary Jane Cedar Face