Faculty Senate Minutes

March 11, 2013

SU 313 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Dave Carter, Sherry Ettlich, Doug Gentry, Fredna Grimland, Kevin Sahr, John King, Byron Marlowe, Rich May, Mary Russell-Miller, Kasey Mohammad, John Richards, Steve Jessup, Larry Shrewsbury, Ellen Siem, Robin Strangfeld, Jamie Vener, Jody Waters.

**Absent:** Gerry McCain.

**Visitors:** Susan Walsh, Lee Ayers, Jazmin Roque, Torii Uyehara, Oneta Cantlon, Thomas Letehworth, Ellis Cochran, Max Goldman, Alissa Arp, Karen Stone, Joshua Danielson, John Sollinger, Kyle Pate, Lora Stamper, Mandy Updike, Rebecca Dikes, Kristen Mosley, Dan DeNeui, Jason Pennell, Baback Utogroabadi, Mary Cullinan, John Westbrook, Jim Klein.

**The meeting was called to order at 4:01.**

**Approval of minutes from February 25:**

The February 25 minutes were amended to reflect that President Cullinan did not attend the Lock In event. Richard moved that the minutes from February 25 be approved. Carter seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor and none opposed. Sahr and Russell-Miller abstained.

**Announcements:**

Mohammad announced that the 2013 issue of *West Wind Review* is now available in the bookstore and can be purchased for ten dollars.

**Comments from President Cullinan:**

* President Cullinan was outraged to hear that the Marines and Army decided not to fund their veterans. This will be discussed further.
* The Distinguished Lecturer Series was successful, and Greg Jones will present the next lecture in the series.
* President Cullinan will be traveling to Salem and petition to be included in the discussion about the future of higher education in Oregon.
* Sahr inquired about enrollment and how we discovered that we actually lose money on many students. Cullinan explained that the Capacity Study revealed many areas of disinvestment, and as the state’s contribution lowers, areas of need become more obvious.
* Discussion ensued with inquiries and comments from Ettlich, Gentry, King, and Waters. President Cullinan explained that we are recruiting out-of-state students.
* Gentry pointed out that to claim that we lose money on in-state students is an overly simplistic statement. Many complexities exist in the funding model.
* King agreed with Gentry that such statements could be misleading. Waters added that change is occurring quickly.
* The Co-Chairs Budget reflects that Sports Lottery money will be returned to the higher education budget.

**Comments from Provost Klein:**

* SOAR—Paul Adalian requested that Klein announce upcoming changes. SOAR would like to expand the poster sessions since many podium presentations were poorly attended. They would like to increase the program-wide presentations, which are sponsored by departments and were better attended.
* Gentry agreed that the increased presence of poster sessions is a good idea. He questions the program idea since many of the attendees would likely be from that department.
* Waters questioned locations—would posters remain in the Rogue River Room? Klein explained that they would likely expand through the Student Union.
* Ettlich shared that the Math Department uses a SOAR session for part of the senior capstone requirement. The timing is early for their department, but students like their presentations included at SOAR and appreciate being included in the event.
* Grimland wondered if more space could be allocated for the poster sessions so that they aren’t so crowded. Klein says that more room will be available.
* Cullinan’s Monday Message announced that we have hired Roxanne Stansbury in the Center for Instructional Support, a hire that combined two positions. Stansbury will start on July 1.
* The Grants Position was hired as well and is funded through our Grant Overhead Account, not from the general fund. This will help expand our grant writing capabilities.
* Richards asked about the hires being “tentative,” and Klein explained that these are verbal acceptance, not signed yet.

**ASSOU Report:**

* Jazmin Roque reported on the upcoming (4/25) Student Rally.
* Torii Uyehara explained that the goal of this rally is to make a strong presence in Salem. They want lawmakers to know that SOU cannot withstand additional cuts in funding. She gave compelling statistics to illustrate how dire the funding situation is in Oregon.
* Uyehara is in charge of Class Raps, and she passed around a sign-up sheet for for those interested in having a class presentation or in taking students to the rally.

**Advisory Council Report:**

Waters explained that AC discussed agenda items, as well as student presence on committees.

**Information Items:**

**HB 2787 Tuition Equity – Jazmin Roque**

* Roque explained that a hearing will take place on 3/19 and students will attend to support the bill that will allow students who have attended Oregon high schools but who are not legal residents to pay in-state tuition. A letter has been drafted in support of this bill, and Waters has made some changes to the letter.
* Seim moved that Senate suspend the two-week rule and sign off on the draft letter. Ettlich seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor, none opposed. Grimland abstained.
* Richards moved that Senate endorse the letter supporting this bill. Gentry seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor and none opposed. There were no abstentions.

**John Westbrook—Veterans’ Official:**

* The tuition assistance program for Army and Marines was suspended on 3/8. Westbrook explained that the program favors the semester system, and on the quarter system, veterans only receive a portion of their allotted benefits. Westbrook explained that 270 veterans on SOU’s campus use veteran benefits. He asks that students write to Congress members to help bring attention to this issue. Waters offered to write a letter of support, and Westbrook offered to send out a fact sheet. Ettlich asked for clarification about the difference between GI Bill and the Tuition Assistance program. This program is for Active Duty Status members.
* Jason Pennell, ASSOU director of Government Affairs, explained that students will be traveling to Washington D.C. on Thursday, and they would be willing to deliver a letter of support from faculty.

**Assessment – Kristin Nagy-Catz**

* Nagy-Catz has been retained for the year as our Academic Assessment Consultant. Provost Klein introduced her and explained what she will be working on, including Credit for Prior Learning. Waters asked how her services would best be used. Nagy-Catz explained that she can help with articulating departmental learning outcomes.
* Catz’s office is located in the Computer Science Building, above the lab area, in Provost Klein’s old office.

**General Education Reform – Provost Klein:**

* Provost Klein and Karen Stone gave a presentation on possible changes to the University Studies requirements.
* Houses require an alternate University Studies path.  There will be thematic courses running through the four years, with many courses being team-taught.  Honors students would have a different path but similar path through the University Studies curriculum.  The issues arise principally with the Exploration Sequences.   Stone helped explain a foreseeable drop in required US credits by shifting part (12 credits) of the current pre-requisites for majors/US requirements in the current program to an integrated US seminar similar to the proposed House seminars and the Honors College curriculum. These US seminars would combine content with US foundational skills and additional skills that employers wish to see in graduates.

**Discussion:**

* King asked for clarification about the term “cohort.” Klein explained that the taskforce would determine this.
* Richards asked about exploration courses and expressed a concern that designing three new courses would be a big task.
* Ayers explained that many exploration courses were designed by one person but taught by others.
* King wondered what the problem is that this change is designed to fix. Klein explained that our current system is difficult to assess.
* Waters added that the evaluation on all exploration courses conducted several years ago indicated that some lower division exploration courses do not address University Studies goals.
* Russell-Miller inquired about how the assessment process would change.
* Discussion ensued about how to proceed with assessment of these courses and how a new model might make this a more manageable task.
* Gentry wondered how resources would affect this new model. Course development might require resources that aren’t readily available.
* Marlowe explained that he has heard some Business students voice dissatisfaction with the current Exploration offerings.
* Ettlich expressed her concern that SOU has moved gradually away from the broader Liberal Arts emphasis being 1/3 of the coursework. How will cutting another third impact the overall strength of the institution? Students might miss exposure to broader issues and graduate with a very narrowly focused program.
* Klein explained that he is forming a taskforce to discuss this further. Let Waters or Klein know if you would like to be part of this group.

**Discussion Items:**

**None**

**Action Items:**

**Curriculum Committee – Lee Ayers**

Carter motioned that Senate approve the changes to curriculum that the CC has approved, and Cleland-Sipfle seconded. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed, and Sahr and Russell-Miller abstained.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17.