

University Committee Minutes

October 20th, 2021 3:00 – 5:00 PM vis Microsoft Teams

Present: Devin Bickner (minutes), Joan Groessl, Dan Kallgren, Jon Shelton, Heidi Sherman (chair), Patricia Terry, Aaron Weinschenk

Guests: Kate Burns, Virginia Englebert, Holly Keener, Sue Machuca, Valerie Murrenus Pilmaier, Ted Evert

Call to order: 3:01

1. Minutes: Dan Kallgren motions to approve minutes for Oct 6th, 2021. Patricia Terry seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Revision of Institutional Learning Outcomes (Murrenus Pilmaier) – Brief update to new plans for assessment
 - a. Proposal has gone through AAC, GAAC, GEC
 - b. Will use AAC&U rubrics, including slight modifications to existing language from previous assessment process
 - c. People will assess general education outcomes in general education courses, and possibly include institution outcomes for higher level courses
3. General Education revision (Murrenus Pilmaier)
 - a. Inspired partly by comprehensive program review, the recent move to becoming an open access institution, and has not been updated since 2014
 - b. Some good things (e.g., first year seminars, high impact practices, etc.)
 - c. Some things need to be improved (e.g., many GE courses are not taught or do not really fit the GE idea)
 - d. Asking for recommendation by early December from the UC for a diverse group of members for the working group. Work might be done over the summer, so would like to consider compensation for it. Hope to have work done by December 2023 so that changes can take effect by Fall 2024.
 - e. Some concerns were raised about how course cap increase will affect things like HIPs. Other concerns raised about workload, as faculty are continually asked to do more with each passing year.
4. Provost Update (Burns)
 - a. COVID – Vaccination rate at 65% for students and 79% for faculty. Efforts are being made to increase those, especially for students with the target of 70% for scholarships.
 - b. Enrollment – 9614 students, including high school students, Rising Phoenix, etc.
 - c. Question raised concerning dashboard count. Official count for majors seems to be incorrect, despite claiming to be updated weekly.
5. Discussion on course caps (Burns)
 - a. Wanted to create broad guidelines for course caps, since there is little to no existing guidance on course caps from anywhere in system, caps differ greatly depending on program, college, discipline, etc., and previous caps seemed to be chosen arbitrarily.
 - b. New suggestions for course caps include increases and decreases.
 - c. Current proposal is currently being shared with chairs. Provost claims that there have not been major concerns expressed beyond some individual logistical issues.

- d. Concerns raised about increasing caps significantly (some even being doubled), as it might fundamentally change the way the course is taught, often to the detriment of the student.
 - e. Concerns raised about this being a curricular issue and that the faculty were not consulted.
 - f. Many expressed disappointment not only in the significant cap raises, but for the way decisions like this are being made, and want more input from faculty for decisions like this in general moving forward.
 - g. UC will take the matter to their respective units, disciplines, committees, etc., and will consider taking action in the future.
6. AFT letter on Personnel and Compensation Review Committee (Terry)
- a. There is a dearth of both transparency from and faculty representation on the committee. The provost is the only faculty member on the committee, and possibly does not get to vote. Even deans often share frustration with choices made by the committee and the lack of explanations about said choices.
 - b. UC will invite the chancellor to discuss at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 5:03

Respectfully submitted,

Devin Bickner