

MINUTES

University Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 3:00 PM
Cofrin Library 750

Present: Clifton Ganyard, Kristin Vespia, John Lyon, Katrina Hrivnak, Sylvia (Mimi) Kubsch, Steven Meyer (chair), Cristina Ortiz

Guests: Hannah Stepp, Heidi Fencl, Paula Ganyard, Kelly Franz, Sue Mattison, Amanda Hruska, Donna Ritch, Christian Trombley, Lucy Arendt, Cliff Abbott

1. The UC meeting minutes from the October 7, 2014 were approved.
2. Information Items:
 - a. Learning Technology Collaborative Committee: Meyer sent new Code wording to Bill Hubbard.
 - b. Legislative Actions Committee: Meyer sent new Code wording to Dallas Blaney.
 - c. Essential Job Functions: Sheryl van Gruensven contacted the Disabilities Committee; they will consider the issue.
 - d. Provost Candidates: Meyer shared the schedules for the Provost Candidate visit.
3. Student and Faculty Event Collaboration: Student Hannah Stepp shared her concerns over collaboration between the SGA and both the Political Science Faculty and the Legislative Affairs Committee. She explained that at least two faculty members had treated her with disrespect, on one occasion mocking her announcement that a particular candidate was coming to campus and dismissing the forum at which he would speak as unimportant, and on another occasion having a forum SGA had set up undermined by the LAC, which scheduled its own forum with a candidate and then asked the candidate to cancel the student sponsored forum. The UC was dismayed to hear of this behavior and recommended that Ms. Stepp contact the Chair of Political Science and the Dean of LAS with her concerns.
4. Faculty Support for the Library: Heidi Fencl, Chair of the Library Advisory Committee, and Paula Ganyard, Director of the Cofrin Library, discussed the impact that inflation, budgetary cuts, and rising expenses are having on the collection of resources. Over the past several years, cuts amounting to approximately \$114,000 have resulted in a net loss of some \$700,000 in continuing resources. They asked the UC for advice on how to publicize this problem. The UC suggested presenting the problem to the Senate and asking Senators to talk with their units. As a follow up, it was suggested that the LAC could ask the Senate for a statement of support. They will present the problem to the Senate on 10/22/2014.
5. Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) and Facilities Management Committee (FMC): Kelly Franz, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, explained that these two committees seem to overlap in their responsibilities, often leading to confusion over what each group is supposed to do. He suggested that the two committees probably should be merged in some way. Meyer questioned what the appropriate procedure for pursuing that was and will look into it further. It also was suggested that University Staff probably should be added to the committee.

6. Phuture Phoenix: Dean Sue Mattison joined the UC to answer questions regarding Phuture Phoenix. Several faculty have raised concerns that students are using Phuture Phoenix as a way to get out of class, skip assignments, quizzes, and the like. Mattison explained that there are actually several sections of EDUC 295, one of which is required for Education majors and one of which is an elective for other interested students. However, in each case, the Phuture Phoenix project is an optional project and not required. She speculated that part of the problem might be due to the fact that there is a new Teacher Advisory Board that lacks experience in advising students properly. She will look into that to ensure that faculty and students are being advised correctly.

Ganyard asked Mattison about the impact of Phuture Phoenix. She explained that due to the history of the program, proper records were not kept for the first couple of years, making it difficult to track the program's effectiveness. Nevertheless, 23 PP students are currently enrolled at UWGB. Furthermore, she did note that rates of college attendance have improved slowly. She also noted that the program has been expanded to include a tutoring program, wherein GB students tutor local high school students in the hope of improving the likelihood they will attend college. In addition, students will be assisting prospective students to complete FAFSA forms, Jen Jones will be running a program on writing effective essays, and a donor has offered to pay the application fees for students from East, West, and Preble. Mattison will send some further information on the impact of the Phuture Phoenix program to the UC.

7. Summer Sessions: Amanda Hruska, Donna Ritch, Christian Trombley, and Lucy Arendt joined the UC to discuss the potential impact of changing the summer academic sessions. Two issues were raised: (1) Simplifying the number and organization of the summer sessions, and (2) restricting the number of credits students can take during the summer to 7. After much discussion, it was agreed that the summer sessions should be changed but students should not be restricted in the number of credits they can take. The benefits of changing the sessions were numerous, including streamlining registration, simplifying billing and financial aid, and extending the period in which independent studies, travels courses, and the like could be conducted. There was no evidence that students taking several courses at one time resulted in poor performance.

Hruska also noted a related issue that they 2016-17 fall semester will have to be extended by two days to ensure a full 14-week semester.

Meyer noted that each of these problems is an issue for the Academic Actions Committee. He will announce these issues at Senate on 10/22/14.

8. Senate Agenda: The UC met with Cliff Abbott to set the agenda for the Senate meeting on 10/22/14. He noted that he would not be able to attend that meeting. Ganyard volunteered to take notes for him.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clifton Ganyard.

Approved 10/29/2014.