

Meeting Minutes
INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 19, 2008
3:30pm – Student Center Conference Room A

Present: Laura Brener (Chair), Steve Byman, George Dennis, Scott Dennis, Dawn Draus, Brendan Glaser, George Henderson, Helen Kuebel, Katie McKie (student representative), Rhonda Meyers, Joyce Niemi (recorder), Tamara Norton, Faye Olason, Carmen Robinson, Robert Rodger, David Rosi, Michael Strayer, Alex Whitman

Absent: Geary Greenleaf, Mary Harding, Janelle Runyon

Guests: Kristy Enser, Jerry Zimmerman

Laura called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

Laura opened the meeting by offering her sincere sympathy on the death of math instructor Loren Claunch. She said she understands what a loss it is to the college and especially to the math department. Laura also commended Dawn Draus, Terri Skeie and Jeff Lucas for stepping up so quickly to cover Loren's classes for the remainder of winter quarter.

Laura introduced the new Instructional Council Resource Books that have been made available by her office. The books contain useful resource information for council members. The resource books will be housed in the Vice President's Office and kept updated. They will be made available at meetings.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 2008 meeting as written. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Credit by Exam from Excelsior University

This issue was tabled until the March meeting.

Learning Communities

Rhonda explained that Michael Strayer and Jerry Zimmerman were going to present the different models of Learning Communities. Rhonda said they would like the department chairs to take this information back to their departments to determine where the interest is. Michael and Jerry gave a PowerPoint presentation on the different models. There was discussion on each model, including the pros and cons. Michael ended by saying that the task force would like to get faculty excited about the possibility of trying a teaching model different from the traditional.

The task force hopes to give workshops during spring quarter on how to use Learning Communities. They hope this will open up opportunities across the

campus, especially areas that have not participated in Learning Communities in the past.

Laura thanked the task force for their hard work. She said she supports the Learning Community concept. She said that data proves that a Learning Community experience is a positive one for students. Brendan and Laura both reminded the group that budgetary concerns would have to be part of the criteria when reviewing Learning Community proposals. Laura explained that budget impacts are a reality we must live with.

ENGL 101 as a Prerequisite

After discussion that included feedback from departments, it was decided not to make any change. Instructors will continue to determine if they need a prerequisite for their individual classes. Alex Whitman shared a proposal from her department for a “W” (Writing) requirement.

Students in the Halls

Laura has forwarded this issue to Richard Hamilton for consideration.

Priority Registration

Laura forwarded this concern to Mary Harding. Wendy added that she had discussed this concern with Lynn Lawrence. Lynn said that they know this was a concern and the schedule will be different next year.

Honors Program

After discussion that included feedback from departments, it was decided that no Honors classes will be scheduled next year. Laura said that this does not mean that the idea of an Honors Program could not be revisited. She said that any proposal would be welcome. The right option can be valuable to students. Alex added that the Language and Literature department felt that our energies might be better served to concentrate on the needs of our student population, which tends to be at the opposite end of the spectrum of an Honors Program.

New Business:

Review of Degree Requirements

Laura explained that there is a need for a regular, periodic review of degree requirements. Laura would like Instructional Council to take on that responsibility. She would like to start by assessing the AA-DTA degree. She would like the council to identify a process by the end of this academic year and start the actual review next fall.

Health and Wellness Requirement

Tamara explained that her department hopes to initiate a proposal to add a Health and Wellness requirement to at least some of our degree options. At this point, Tamara asked that department chairs take the idea back to their

departments for ideas and comments. She would like any thoughts emailed directly to her.

Other

Exceptional Faculty Grants

Margit Brumbaugh had hoped to join the council to talk about exceptional faculty grants but was not able to attend. Laura asked the department chairs to encourage their faculty to consider applying for a grant if they had a special project or travel they were interested in for the upcoming year.

Tutor Coordinator

George encouraged department chairs to invite Vikki Carter, the new tutor coordinator to one of their department meetings. George also announced that Tutor Madness will be held March 17. George encouraged faculty to participate.

Mentoring Program

Student Services had hoped to send someone to give a short briefing on the new Mentoring Program. Unfortunately it was too short a notice. Laura explained that the new program targets young men in math classes who are at high risk. She went on to explain that students at risk in other areas are also included. Wendy added that the program needs students to participate. She said that there is a \$100 scholarship to the LCC Bookstore for the purchase of books for those students in Math who get a 2.0 or better. Wendy said it is the hope that faculty will help encourage students at risk to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.