

Academic Assembly
April 8, 2013
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 210

MINUTES

Present: David Arnesen, Brenda Broussard, Mason Bryan, Carol Wolfe Clay, Karen Cowgill, Isiaah Crawford, Lynn Deeken, Bill Ehmann, Terry Foster, Christian Halliburton, Sonora Jha, William Kangas, Chuck Lawrence, Michael Matriotti, Sean McDowell, Erik Olsen, Roshanak Roshandel, Rob Rutherford, John Strait, Jeremy Stringer

Minutes taken by Rosa Hughes

- I. Review of 4-1-13 Minutes
 - A. Add item IV.E. "Discussion of conferences"
 - B. In item IV. C. remove "over next three years"
 - C. In item III.B. add the word "system" after "calendar"
 - D. Approved with changes
- II. General Science Program Review (*Mike Quinn and Jen Sorensen*)
 - A. Concerns
 1. The program only has one full time faculty member and no tenure track lines
 - a. Lack of advising support makes it very difficult for the department chair to maintain scholarship and research goals
 - b. Lack of administrative support for separate environmental science degree and program necessities, such as tracking alumni data and developing assessment
 - c. Difficulty meeting students' professional development needs
 2. Lack of clarity about the dichotomy of the Environmental Science and Environmental Studies programs
 - B. Program Discussion
 1. No course that addresses the scientific method in conversation with other methods of learning
 2. In upper division course work, General Science majors package together the set of courses that prepare them professionally
 3. College of Science and Engineering recently hired a new Biochemistry faculty member who will assume some of the advising responsibility for General Science seniors
 4. Assessment challenges
 - a. Learning outcomes of program are not tied to content of any specific courses
 - b. Difficult to gather program assessment data because majors take courses across many different departments, with students from other majors
 5. Possible collaborations
 - a. Center for Environmental Justice in Society
 - b. College of Education (STEM possibilities)
 6. Program Review Committee should consider related programs in their review
 - C. PRC memo edits
 1. Clarify that concern 2 is specifically about advising
 2. Add a comment about the relationship between the Environmental Studies and Environmental Science programs
 3. Approved with above edits

- III. Core Update (*Jeff Philpott*)
 - A. Rollover to new Core on April 24
 - 1. Over 450 new Core course sections scheduled for next year
 - 2. Major communication over the next few weeks – public sessions, information in Spectator, posters on campus, emails and Facebook posts
 - B. Credits from the current Core will automatically transfer to corresponding requirements in the new Core
 - 1. For exceptions, the student can file a request with their advisor or school/college point advisor, who will submit to the Registrar
 - 2. Exception requests will be processed as quickly as possible
 - 3. If advising has become difficult for faculty advisors during the transition to the new Core, contact the point advisor within the school/college for assistance, then the Core office
 - C. Normal advising holds on most students for summer/fall registration
 - D. Core Governance
 - 1. University Core Implementation Committee developing governance proposal
 - 2. Core Assessment Planning Committee developing assessment systems
 - E. Departments that do not have a Senior Synthesis course that they can transition into a Capstone course had the option to delay development of that Capstone till next year
- IV. New Textbook Ordering System (*Melody Kadlub-Barr and Bob Spencer*)
 - A. Shift in communication about textbook order deadlines
 - 1. Previously went through an email chain and was distributed to schools and colleges from Office of the Provost
 - 2. New system will email automatic reminders directly to faculty or designated staff
 - 3. Once an order is submitted, reminder emails will stop
 - B. Features
 - 1. Pre-populated with course information
 - 2. Search by ISBN, pictures of front cover, associated books, previous orders
 - 3. Also has non-book materials
 - 4. Dashboard reports to school/college and department chair
 - 5. Students can order directly from SU Online when they register
 - C. The bookstore will send an email to faculty with video and directions this week
- V. SU Academic Benchmark Overview
 - A. Presentation of proprietary information about enrollment trends, academic profile of students, and faculty status in a dashboard/overview format
 - B. Typically presented to the Academic Affairs committee of the Board of Trustees
- VI. Faculty Handbook language will be on next agenda