Call to Order: 3:39 p.m.

Approval of Minutes, September 4, 2013

- Approved electronically

Committee and Ad Hoc reports

- Affinity groups – update, Polly Beals
  - October 4 faculty development forum will take place from 8:30am-2:30pm in ASC Ballroom
  - WAC – no report

Old Business

- Natural World Affinity Group request, follow up.
  - Deb and Polly met with Matt Enjalran who chairs the Natural World Affinity Group. The AG had requested a 24 hour minimum laboratory/field work component for all NW courses. In a previous meeting the LEPC had declined to support this request for a number of reasons (see previous minutes). The purpose of this meeting was to explain the rationale behind the LEPC decision. Following a lengthy discussion, Matt will bring up a request that the AG gather outcome data utilizing a rubric common to all courses prior to requesting changes to the current LEP status quo for NW. The rationale behind this is the principle that the LEP is learning outcomes based.

New Business

- Report from Joe Fields regarding literature on class size and successful pedagogy
• Literature on effect of class size on student success is rife with politics and much is unsound in design
• Four articles were presented that demonstrate positive outcomes for smaller classes that did not seem biased or flawed
  1. Writing courses ought to have caps around 15 (Horning)
  2. Better pass rates in smaller classes
  3. Grades decline as class size increases
• One issue cited as a positive for large classes is reduced cost of college which is an important issue for students, otherwise, most studies advocating large class size were not terribly good/compelling
• We should mine or utilize our own data and find out how class size affects our own students.
• We should use assessment and student learning outcomes to compare outcomes of larger versus smaller classes.
• LEP was designed to improve student success and workforce development (writing, communication, critical thinking, problem-solving)—can those goals be achieved with very large class sizes?
• The challenge is to balance maintaining the integrity of the LEP with the different needs/desires of the departments, given that class size can fluctuate widely from one department to another, sometimes by design, sometimes not.
• Can classes held as super-sections meet the LEP goals?
  • TAP articulation agreements with ConnSCU facilities – see attachment
    • This was discussed for several minutes at the end of the meeting.
    • Start with this next meeting. The guide would be used for dialogues with the CCs in order to reach an agreement on the TAP articulation package for each institution.

  o Adjournment: 4:57 p.m.