Liberal Education Program Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2015

9:35 – 10:50 – ASC 308

Minutes

Present: Polly Beals (chair), Gregory Paveza, Bette Bergeron, Ellen Durnin, Yilma Gebremariam, Wendy Hardenberg (recording), Jim Tait, Cindy Simoneau, Steven Breese, Deb Weiss, Wes O’Brien, Stephen Hegedus, Marianne Kennedy, Beena Acchpal, Mike Shea, Dave Petroski

- Call to Order: 9:38 a.m.
- Old Business
  - Discussion with Deans and Provost on limiting supersections in LEP

  At the LEPC Nov 20 meeting, we approved the motions below. They were tabled at UCF Dec 5 with a directive for LEPC to meet with Deans and Provost to discuss enrollment objectives and LEP curricular and programmatic objectives.

  Motion - In order to ensure student success and retention, it is moved that Tier 2 super section classes (more than 40 students) be restricted to sophomore level students and above and that students be allowed to take no more than two super section classes to fulfill their Tier 2 requirements.

  Motion - All super section classes will have accompanying recitation sections. Administration will provide the resources to accomplish this

  - Provost Bergeron expressed her appreciation for the LEP framework; however our undergrad enrollment continues to bleed while our sister institutions have started growing again, which contributes to a budget hole.
    - The LEPC, Provost and Deans discussed ideas for how to maintain the integrity of the LEP while not contributing to enrollment decline.
    - Making the program more flexible will have to go hand in hand with promoting the program to its constituents

Regarding supersections:

  - Jim Tait pointed out that many competencies are supposed to be reinforced in Tier 2, and it becomes less credible that that is really happening as class sizes increase
- Dean Breese stated that supersections provide crucial flexibility for students (i.e. they can get into those classes) and we have to teach these classes and students have to take them.
- Provost Bergeron indicated that we’re not aiming for a particular number of supersections, but rather financial stability.
- Dean Hegedus is most interested in the question of student learning outcomes in supersections:
  - If more than half of LEP courses are taught by adjuncts, how can we be sure our learning outcomes are being met?
  - The data says that teaching supersections isn’t for everybody, so faculty development in this area could be important.
- LEPC would like to see the data that shows our faculty-student ratios broken down by class.

• Adjournment: 10:59 a.m.