Undergraduate Curriculum Forum
MINUTES
Adanti Student Center, Room 301A
Thursday, October 24, 2013


Absent: S. Grace, L. Bower-Phipps, C. Meyerhoffer, S. Graves, R. Silady, S. Clerc, J. Alexander, D. Bentley-Drobish, C. Petto

I. The meeting was called to order at 9:36.
   1. A quorum (50% + 1) was reached at 9:36.

II. Liz Keenan welcomed Casey Senny, a graduate student writing a doctoral dissertation on the Transfer Articulation Policy.

III. Announcements:
   a. Tricia Lin announced an event that will take place tonight from 5:00-7:00, entitled Peace Talks. It will be a discussion featuring activists from the Flying Eagle Woman Fund, Movement for Justice in El Barrio and North End Action Team. The talk is associated with the Women’s Studies capstone course, and a light dinner will be served.
   b. Kathleen Skoczen announced the upcoming lecture about the León Sister City program that will take place next Thursday at 12:30 in the Adanti Student Center theater. This lecture is part of the Social Justice in the Academy Series.
   c. Polly Beals informed the body that the Office of Assessment has been collecting and analyzing data about the LEP. Michael Ben-Avie has been instrumental writing up this data, and the report is forthcoming.
   d. Liz Keenan announced that at next meeting Barbara Aronson, and perhaps other members of the Online Policy Committee, will present a draft of a policy for online and hybrid learning. The UCF body has been asked to consider and vote on the policy.

IV. Approval of the UCF minutes of October 10, 2013
   1. The minutes were approved.
V. Standing committee reports:

1. NMC
   a. Discussion of the 10/17/13 meeting
   b. **Motion** to approve the following revised program proposal:
      i. BS Athletic Training
         **Motion** was approved unanimously.
   c. **Motion** to approve the following new course proposals:
      i. BIO 396—Synthetic Biology: Engineering Life
      ii. MUS 230—Introduction of Musical Improvisation
         **Motion** was approved unanimously.
   d. **Motion** to approve the following revised course proposals:
      i. ANT 321—Indians of North America
      ii. CHI 210—Chinese IV
      iii. ENV 491—Seminar in Environmental and Marine Studies
      iv. HIS 162—Connecticut
      v. MAR 150—Costal Marine Studies
      vi. MAT 103—Mathematics for the Liberal Arts
      vii. PHY 200—General Physics I
      viii. PHY 210—College Physics
      ix. PHY 230—Physics for Scientists and Engineers I
         **Motion** was approved unanimously.
   e. **Motion** to approve the following Departmental Minor Revision Proposal
      i. Science Education and Environmental Studies—Marine Studies
         **Motion** was approved unanimously.
   f. The minutes from the meeting on 10/17/13 were received.

2. WACC
   a. Discussion of the 10/17/13 meeting
      i. Marie McDaniel reported that the committee is engaged in discussion about caps on W courses; the committee will eventually present external and internal data they have collected to the UCF body.
      ii. She also reported that the committee is interested in hosting a year-end gathering to recognize faculty who teach W courses and to provide an opportunity for them to share pedagogical strategies.
      iii. Finally, she reported that the committee would like to explore proposing that students divide W-courses in different areas of their courses of study: students would taking one W course in the LEP, one in their major, and would have one free option. She asked members of the body to share their opinions about the idea, and the floor opened for discussion.
         1. Members of the body expressed concern about: the practical implementation of such a division; having
an adequate number of W-courses in departments in which high levels of adjuncts work; the need to streamline our processes and simplify our requirements; the difficulty of requiring departments to write W-course proposals; adding a student requirement when faculty should assume the burden of the additional requirements, and the strategic difficulty of making additional curricular changes as we transition into the LEP.

2. Liz Keenan asked the members of the body to start a dialogue within our Departments about how the LEP has shifted our curriculum, particularly within our own majors. She asked us to explore with our colleagues how we help students continue to develop their writing competency, not just in the Tier 2, but also within the major.

3. Liz Keenan reminded us that we approved a motion last year about reducing the cap on W courses to 20 students over three semesters. Since the reduction of the cap size was supposed to begin this spring, she followed up with Provost Kennedy; however, the Provost said it wasn’t the time to begin reducing class sizes due to budget constraints. This is why, Keenan informed the body, WACC is discussing and gathering data on class size.

b. The minutes from the 10/17/13 meeting were received.

3. UWIC

a. Discussion of the 10/17/13 meeting

b. **Motion** to approve the following revised course proposals:
   i. HIS 228—Modern Latin America (Tier 2; Global Awareness)
   ii. GEO 100—People, Places and Environments (Tier 2; Time and Place)
   iii. MUS 110—Music History of the Western World (Tier 2; Cultural Expression)
   iv. ART 104—History of Western Art 1 (Tier 2; Cultural Expression)
   v. ART 105—History of Western Art 2 (Tier 2; Cultural Expression)
   vi. HIS 104—Islamic Civilization (Tier 2; Global Awareness)

c. The **motion** was approved unanimously.

d. Klay Kruczek read a statement by the committee expressing concern about whether or not “mega sections” (particularly, several courses scheduled for the spring capped at 200 students) can fulfill the pedagogical goals of the LEP (see UWIC minutes for statement). He opened the floor for discussion.
i. Members of the body expressed concern about whether the committee has any control over caps (responding to that, Liz Keenan reminded us that LEPC is the body that makes policy about the LEP, and that they are working on a policy regarding course caps). Kathleen Skoczen expressed concern that sound pedagogy is not the primary preoccupation of the administration; rather, it is the fiscal bottom line. She urged the body to let the administration know that this bottom line is impoverishing the educational mission of SCSU, and that it is our job to defend the integrity of our classes. It was brought up that the Dean has responded this semester with additional allocations to make sure the mega sections are effective. Patricia Kahlbaugh expressed concern that the mega sections will suck up the diversity of course offerings within Tier 2, which would undermine our work creating courses which may not be taught if mega sections become the norm; Yilma Gebremariam expressed concern about assigning mega sections to adjuncts with heavy accents because the students have difficulty understanding them.

ii. Liz Keenan reminded us that a motion about cap sizes will come forward at the next meeting; consequently, we should discuss the issue within our departments.

e. The minutes from the 10/17/13 meeting were received.

4. NPIC
   a. Discussion of the 10/17/13 meeting
   b. The following courses were logged and accepted as Special Topics courses:
      i. NUR 498—Global Healthcare
   c. **Motion** to approve the minor: Social Science and Medicine
   d. The **motion** was approved unanimously.
   e. Minutes from the meetings on 10/17/13 were received.

5. LEPC
   a. Deb Weiss presented the UCF body with the following **motion**, prepared by the LEPC:
      **Any LEP credits a student earns beyond the program’s required 48 credits will be credited towards a student’s free electives.**
         i. After significant discussion, the question was called.
         ii. The **motion** passed unanimously.
   b. Deb Weiss finished her presentation about the TAP she began at the last UCF meeting. Upon finishing, she fielded questions and comments from members of the body. There was not enough time to vote on the TAP.
   c. The minutes of the meeting on 10/16/13 were received.

VI. There was no new business
VII. Meeting adjourned at 10:52.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Resha Cardone