Wayne State University

Academic Senate

Curriculum and Instruction Committee

(Zoom) Meeting minutes

April 22, 2020

Present:

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| Brad Roth, Chair | Sandra Oliver-McNeil |
| Juliann Binienda | Richard Pineau |
| Kelly Dormer | Stella Resko |
| Thomas Fischer | Yang Zhao |
| Robert Harr |  |
| Manoj Kulchania |  |

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| Liaisons: Paul Beavers (policy committee) |
| Darin Ellis (WSU Administration) |

Excused absences: Peter Henning, Ali Salamey, Basel Berry (Student Senate),

Frank Koscieski (UPTF), Pramod Khosla (AAUP-AFT), Elizabeth Drake (GEOC)

I. Matters Involving the Office of the Registrar

Guest: Kurt Kruschinska, University Registrar

He addressed three issues with the committee:

A. Electronic Wait-Lists

Kurt described how the Electronic Wait-list system works. Not every section will have a wait list. Departments will decide number of students/class/section. Once registration opens up, the students will see a new option that will allow them to join a waitlist. The student will get an email notifying them that the spot is open. That spot will be held for them. The system goes to the next spot if they don’t respond within 24 hours. It moves into Banner. This system does require more work for the department’s scheduler. Departments are advised to keep the waitlist short -- around 10 seats. The system is being piloted this Spring/Summer semester in School of Social Work. So far, it’s working very well. Each course can have option to add waitlist. Depts can see who’s on waitlist. If you give an override it will cancel out the waitlist. Remember that students can see this. If there’s a long list you can decide to create a new section. Waitlist will end on the first day of classes; extending it has been considered, but would create complications. The committee asked a number of clarifying questions with the answers being embedded in this section.

B. Revisions to UP 14-1 - Course Instructional Methods

Brad Roth provided clarification. Due to courses being all online currently, with potential for returning to traditional in the future, there’s a need for moderating the course instructional method descriptions in the official University Policies. Courses for Spring/Summer 2020 are online only. Questions ensued regarding methods for indicating to students how our classes are structured. Darin Ellis clarified that in the traditional classroom structure, the instructor can opt for students to be in-class during certain class periods or not. This is labeled as “synchronous.” This is the same for online. “Asynchronous” indicates that the student is not required to be available online during the scheduled class time.

C. Option for P/N for Winter 2020 – Students can indicate which grades they opt for after the grade is published for the course. Essentially, the student gets their grades, thinks about it and then fills out a form to opt for P/N. Students can also change it back again to a grade at any time prior to graduation. The Registrar’s Office is considering methods for notifying faculty about their students’ P/N decisions.

Kurt Kruschinska was then excused from the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the joint CIC/FAC meeting of February 19, 2020

Richard Pineau made motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sandra Oliver-McNeil seconded. The motion carried.

III. Matters Involving the Provost’s Office – Darin Ellis provided reports on three topics:

A. Implementation of the Wayne Experience (WE) GenEd Requirement

Darin Ellis provided reporting on the WE program. There were capacity limitations in the fall. Out of 3000 students subject to the requirement, about 150 didn’t take up the WE program. Darin offered a brief history of the program. He indicated that there are not enough sections, which are generally taught by staff, and faculty are unlikely to fill the gap because the one-credit course does not fit well with departments’ faculty teaching loads. The committee offered suggestion to have more faculty become aware of the program. Those that teach it are firm that students be brand new freshman only.

B. Plans for the Fall “Restart” of the University

Darin indicated that the Administration has just formulated restart committees and it’s too early to give a final answer about what to expect for the Fall. It has been reported that some other universities are planning for a “full” return of students in the Fall semester, while others are remaining online-only for courses.

C. Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL)

Darin reported positively on the amount of assistance OTL has been providing to faculty and that they need to be commended. Also, he indicated that he has received minimal complaints from students during the crisis, to the credit of both faculty and students. Committee membes provided positive comments on student attitudes, OTL, and the overall university attitude toward this situation. SDS is receiving compliments regarding faculty cooperation in serving the needs of disabled students. There was much discussion regarding pros and cons of a restart that would feature live classes.

IV. Further Discussion of Previous Business and Listserv Queries

Brad Roth reviewed past committee discussions and initiatives

A. Provost’s Interdisciplinary Hiring Initiatives

Committee members were unsure as to benefits of this program. WSU AAUP offered statistics on faculty hiring comparing 2014 to 2018 in terms of faculty hires. [Those charts accompany these minutes.] Committee members shared recent experiences with interdisciplinary hiring. It takes a great amount of faculty and staff time to arrange for interviews, selecting the candidates, etc. Recently an offer was made to a candidate who declined.

B. Online SETs

At the last meeting a presentation was offered to the committee from the WSU Online SET group. Discussion ensued. Some members reported very positive viewpoints regarding online SETS. Committee agreed that it should be faculty controlled.

C. Renewed Interest in Barnes & Noble “Inclusive Access” Initiative

Brad reviewed this because we as a committee and the student senate voted this down. It seems now that the proposal is being raised again. Paul Beavers opined that the promised benefits to student benefits are far from sure to be delivered. Committee members expressed continued skepticism of the proposal.

D. Provost’s Query about the Outsourcing of Proctoring

Committee members reported being unsure of the available alternatives. The Provost mentioned Proctoria, a commercial program. Some members discussed rampant cheating using Respondus, etc. Questions arose: How to do exams in this online environment? How to provide faculty assistance for this? University should explore options for managing this. Students need equipment and resources to manage this. The committee agreed to continue to discuss this via listserv.

VIII. Matters Arising

Brad asked for someone to draft a commendation statement for OTL. Tom Fischer agreed.

He will draft and email it to committee for input.

The committee also offered itself for ongoing discussions and input to Darin Ellis and/or other administrators over the spring/summer, as this is our last official meeting. All agree.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliann Binienda