

# Academic Senate Curriculum & Instruction Committee

## Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, October 27, 2021

### Attendees:

Brad Roth, Richard Pineau, Jenny Lewis (Chair), David Moss, Xiaoyan Han, Stephanie Chastain, Jeff Grynaviski, Amy Latawiec, Andrew Fribley, Kelly Dormer, Pramod Khosla, Darin Ellis

The meeting began at 1:03 pm.

Jenny posted the agenda on PPT for all to see. Richard Pineau volunteered to be the secretary for the meeting. Jenny mentioned that the Student Code of Conduct will be discussed at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

As an opportunity to build social capital, members were invited to share what they are working on this week. New members who were not in attendance at the last meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

Next, Jenny reviewed the meeting norms with one change being to invite those who may have been quiet to speak up and those who have been talking a lot, should kindly step back.

Jenny reminded everyone that Tonya was willing to help anyone with MS Teams if they need it.

The charge from the Policy Committee was reviewed. Our focus will be on the “future of higher education.” To begin the discussion on this, members were invited to use a padlet to sign up for various interests related to the future of higher education. Members then utilized breakout rooms to read that section of future of higher education document and formulate a response to send back to the Academic Senate. After about 30 minutes, the groups reconvened.

Jenny indicated that we would do another round of breakout rooms for continued discussion on Facilities and Housing.

Once everyone reconvened, members reviewed the padlet for additional comment. Two categories are missing: study abroad and faculty. The former is being taken by the Student Affairs Committee. The Faculty aspect will be discussed at the November meeting.

Members are encouraged to add more information to the padlet as they see fit.

As of 10/27/2021, the padlet contained the following items:

### Students

- Acknowledging that the undergraduate and graduate bodies are changing and have been changing. WSU needs to adjust resources and the layers of teaching modalities and accessibility.
- Promoting engagement for students in the classroom and outside the classroom. Having flexible policies in the classroom to allow students from all backgrounds to participate meaningfully and encourage attendance.
- There was discussion about the need to separate the question about how to serve students who were affected by the pandemic and those moving forward. The students affected by the pandemic paid tuition and in some cases didn't get course credit, in some cases, and the students adversely affected by the pandemic seem to be adversely minorities.

- Adjusting curriculum based on students admitted, which admission policies have changed throughout the last few years and more.
- Considering what our student's needs actually are - and providing resources for those needs. For example, the W food Pantry, and the business clothing resource.

#### Online Education

- How should we take into consideration SET data for various class formats?
- How do we prepare our students for online learning? Can they handle the independence of such courses?
- Students seem to like online learning, but do not want to be 100% online. They want a good mix of course formats.
- Specifying a course format – who decides this, admin, the dept. or the faculty?
- Workloads remain an issue to be solved, both in the development of online materials and sharing those materials (who's property are they?)

#### Facilities

- There is a big gap between our beautiful facilities on the outside and the student and faculty experience on the inside. Why spend so much money on the facilities if we don't maintain them?
- Management should do regular supervision of classroom spaces, especially.
- Technology updates
- Elevators
- Custodial problems, especially in classroom buildings is a huge issue (even before the pandemic).

#### Experiencing the University Context

- On campus activities: Yes, on-campus activities will still be essential - suggest that the activities provide meaningful experiences that demonstrate concrete benefits to students to promote participation and attendance, especially if the student has mostly off-campus/online classes.
- We need to find ways to see to it that students feel that they are connected (i.e., that someone would miss them if they were gone).
- We need to do more to highlight opportunities for informal learning - like faculty giving student-facing talks on topics of current interest.
- Housing is important, but there are other ways to support Experiencing the University Context - For example, childcare.

The remaining meeting dates were given to members. At the next meeting, the Student Code of Conduct will be discussed along with the Future of Higher Education, with a focus on Faculty, and a review of the other categories. To conclude, members were asked to submit an anonymous survey about today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Richard Pineau, Associate Professor of Teaching, Mathematics