

Minutes
Curriculum & Instruction Committee
December 13, 2011
12:30-2:00 PM, Room 1270 FAB

In Attendance: Veronica Bielat, Karen Feathers, Andre Furtado, James Moseley, Aaron Retish, Anca Vlasopolos, Howard Shapiro (Administration Liaison), Devin Simpson

Absent with Notice: Barbara Bosch, Kingsley Browne, Jerry Ku, Abhilash Pandya

Absent: Jennifer Beebe-Dimmer, Richard Marback, Janine Lanza (AAUP-AFT Liaison)

1. Approval of minutes for November 22, 2011 meeting. Motion to approve by J. Moseley, seconded by A. Vlasopolos

2. University Undergraduate Probation & Exclusion Policy Recommendations (H. Shapiro)

H. Shapiro presented information regarding revisions to the University Undergraduate Probation & Exclusion Policy. These revisions include changes that would provide for consistency with federal government financial aid reporting rules, which recently changed in relationship to how academic progress is reported. Generally, academic progress would be measured and addressed by semester, instead of our current cumulative structure. This change would benefit students, as students that are not making adequate progress would be identified earlier and interventions could be implemented. H. Shapiro asked for CIC's support for these changes, which would be presented to Policy Committee. Attending members of the CIC unanimously supported the implementation of these revisions, and encouraged H. Shapiro to move forward. It was noted that some colleges and schools have higher standards to measure academic progress, and these changes would not affect those higher standards.

3. General Education Committee Report (H. Shapiro)

H. Shapiro provided an update on activities of the General Education Committee. He noted that our current system of general education relies on competencies and distribution requirements. The General Education committee is looking at the AACU LEAP program as a guide for reviewing Wayne State's General Education. An issues being considered, for example, is "what should general education contribute to an student's educational experience". The General Education Committee is looking at a structure based on outcomes. Beginning in January, the General Education Committee will be having conversations with groups of faculty—topics will focus on "the ideal graduate", "how do we support student needs", "what are our institutional values". Target is a new framework for the 2013 catalog. Travel grants are offered for faculty to attend LEAP and other events. H. Shapiro noted our current writing requirement is a good model of where General Education should be heading—it is sequenced and disciplinary, with outcomes based in the curriculum. He also noted that certification and

licensing endorsements may not match our General Education requirements, which is burdensome on students. We need to accommodate but also provide flexibility for students who change majors. K. Feathers also brought up the issue of transfer students and community college general education offerings.

It was also noted by H. Shapiro that a Faculty Teaching Fellows Program (small in size, 5-10 students) would roll out next winter. Lecturers will be included in the faculty eligible for this program.

4. Report on Retention Initiative (H. Shapiro)

An external group recently came to Wayne State to look at Advising. They provided a report that stated we are moving well in best practice. Suggested in the report was the need for a “vision” of what advising is. The external group also gave feedback about the university’s plan for hiring new advisors. It was noted that Advisors needed more training to assure processes were applied equally, to make better use of technology. Also noted the search for Associate Provost & Director of OTL position currently had identified candidates for interviews.

A. Furtado noted the Math 900 Pathway (to Math 1000) is being offered in the evening for the first time. Load for 993 is decreasing. It appears we are getting students “in the right place”.

1st Year success programs have demonstrated early success and ongoing retention. APEX, ASC, CBS. Learning Community programs need more promotion—but these are voluntary and not everyone is covered. There is a need for a 1st year seminar/orientation class.

Focus on assessment. Learning outcomes are now in place in every program. Need to get faculty engagement. Assessment needs to be made more public and part of an open process of accreditation. This is linked to our NCA accreditation process. Wayne State will begin using Compliance Assist (a computer program adopted by NCA) down to the Department Level. This appears to have different levels of privacy and group availability. It will be rolled out in Winter Term.

A. Retish noted that advising in Department needs to be better integrating with University Advising. H. Shapiro stated that the University Advising Council will be linked with J. Rankin, Association Dean, CLAS. A. Retish stated he would like to see a more organic and natural flow to advising. H. Shapiro noted the Dean’s office will be organizing advising at the Department level and connecting it to university advising.

5. SET 2N Committee: Recommendation Memo from CIC to Academic Senate Policy Committee (V. Bielat)

Draft of memo presented to CIC for review.

6. Report on activity of Task Force for Online Instruction (V. Bielat)

V. Bielat reported Task Force for Online Instruction had met for 2nd time on December 13. The Task Force members had identified individuals who would develop recommendations for different topics identified at previous meeting.

7. Reminder regarding Meeting Dates request for Winter 2012 semester

Respectfully submitted,
Veronica Bielat
Chair, Curriculum & Instruction Committee