Student Affairs Committee

December 6, 2007

Minutes

Present: V. Bielat, V. Dallas, C. Dove, K. Feathers, B. Jones, M. Ronnick, A. Sacco, N. Simon, W. Slater, R. Van Stavern, D. Strauss

Absent with notice: D. Head, J. Martin, T. Somers

Because we had a guest to discuss the on line SET, we began the meeting with that topic. Tom Wilhelm explained the background on the use of the SET and the gradual development of an online form for online classes. Key items he presented include:

- The current problem with online SET is that the response rate is less than with those done in class (average of 30% vs 60%).

- WSU currently could not handle having all classes do online SETs. We do not have the necessary space on the server or for backup. We would need to improve the infrastructure. Thus, one problem would be that the server would be overwhelmed with students trying to complete the SET for their class.

- One possibility is outsourcing (onlinecourseeval.com). The problem is that the data is then outside WSU. Cost would be about $60,000 per year. This would not resolve personnel problems.

- Another possibility is purchasing software. That also would cost about $55, 000 for start up. Whether or not a yearly fee would be paid is not clear, nor is the cost to maintain the software and operate the system ourselves.

Discussion shifted to discussion of the content of the SET. The feeling was that the completion rate might be higher if students were provided information from the SET that was useful to them.   This led to a discussion of possibly involving students in determining some SET items that would provide them with useful information. The value of the SET to faculty was also discussed with some indicating that the ratings were not as useful as student comments. Some did use the SETs in conjunction with other information, to evaluate adjunct faculty. Given a high of 60% completion, and an average of 30%, the use of the SET ratings for faculty evaluation was questioned.

T. Wilhelm indicated that there was once a plan to allow faculty in departments to develop their own items for the SET, and that idea was considered as a way to make the SET more valuable to faculty.

K. Feathers shared the results of student surveys on the use of an online SET. Graduate and undergraduate students were fairly close in their ratings of the items.   Students generally felt that students should have access to SET scores and that no holds or withholding of grades should be placed on students who do not complete the SETs.

On the grading issue we looked at the material sent by Linda Falkiewicz and noted that grades of F increased as a result of the deletion of the grade of X. K. Feathers will ask her for additional information,

especially related to the issue of holds.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm