Faculty Senate Minutes
December 14, 2015

Call to Order: Heath Hornecker called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Business and Industry:
- Jeff Morris Present
- Glen Roberts Present
- Liz Ott Present

Continuing Education:
- Sue Sigler Present

Educational Resources:
- Beth Floyd Present

Fine Arts and Humanities:
- Jennifer Cowell Excused
- Nathan Baker Present
- Charles Ewing Excused

Health Science:
- Mike Moline Present
- Heidi Loucks Present
- Russ Christiansen Present

Science:
- Jacob McIntyre Excused (Proxy to Mel)
- Melissa Connely Present
- Heath Hornecker Present

Social and Behavioral Sciences:
- Erich Frankland Present
- Art Washut Present
- Gretchen Wheeler Present

Guest—Matt Nikodemus, Data Governance Committee: Three or four years ago the state started work on a longitudinal database to track students from kindergarten through college. An external audit indicated this isn’t going well. One recommendation was to create a statewide data governance board, with each state institution also creating one. Matt felt the faculty should have a strong role in this process. We are in the process of creating this and are working out the proportion between faculty and administration. Erich: Is this different from what Lynn Fletcher does with data? Matt: Yes, the process is cumbersome, involving much paperwork and taking a couple of years. HLC also wants to increase faculty involvement with institutional data. Examples of data to be gathered and visible discussed. We are following a model from Notre Dame, with a video link available.

Approval of Minutes 11/9: Erich moved to approve the minutes, Mike seconded. Minutes approved.
Treasurer’s Report: $5569.54 Savings
$1319.60 Checking
76 paid members

Chair Reports:
  Board of Trustees 11/14: Sent out by Heath, uneventful except for ERI discussion.
  College Council 12/8: Good feedback from faculty on policies, some policies went to lawyers and are ready to go to the board. Intellectual Property policy has had quite a bit of discussion and was tabled at College Council.
  Management Council 11/9: Mike sent report via Google Docs; reported sabbaticals scoring and articulation committee recommendations.

Committee Reports:
  Curriculum Committee 12/9: Mel moved to accept the packet, Russ seconded. Institutional memory seems to have gotten lost on a tabled cross-listing requested by UW; it should be resolved next meeting. Committee was concerned about classes that could count for either of two different Gen Ed requirements (use “or” instead of “and”). The English department requested that the English course be tabled for now. Packet accepted.

Faculty Development Grants: Three requests bringing our balance to $21,000. Erich moved to approve the requests, Beth seconded. Question clarifying funding eligibility. Requests approved.

Articulation Committee: Three recommendations: allow departments at their discretion to go to a 60-hour minimum degree requirement; administration create plan to analyze student success and impact on transfer of 60-hour degrees; form a committee to discuss potential of freshman seminar and/or possible role of OnCourse. Erich: Where is the discretion? Only major requirements, or Gen Ed? Mike: The committee didn’t feel it had the right to make this call. HLC requires at least 30 hours of Gen Ed. Discussion followed. Mel moved to accept the first bullet point, seconded by Russ. Art expressed concern about this opening the floodgate to pressure us to drop all programs to 60. Erich expressed concern about how this would affect the students we have that can’t take 15 credits per term and take, say, 12 instead. Mel would like to have the flexibility offered. Mike discussed the possible effect on students considering whether to go to a 60-credit program or a 64-credit program, as well as current political pressures. Tie vote, Heath breaks tie in favor of motion. Nathan moved to approve the second point, seconded by Erich. Question about whether this would fall under the purview of the new Data Governance Committee. Motion passed. Russ moved to approve the third point, seconded by Beth. Erich: What if a department wants neither a freshman seminar nor OnCourse? The freshman seminars at UW have required and recommended outcomes; OnCourse fits some recommended, but none of the required outcomes. Motion passed.
Unfinished Business:
   a. Early Retirement Incentive: Board said to come back in March with new suggestions that don’t reflect already-rejected ideas and is self-funding. Tri-Alliance wants to form a committee to deal with this, membership of two members from each alliance. Erich agreed to serve on the committee; encourage someone else to contact Heath.
   b. Sabbaticals: Nathan moved to recommend both sabbaticals to the board, seconded by Mike. Mel commented on some sections that were difficult to score, such as finances and relevance to departmental plans (which weren’t attached and can no longer be found on the web). Motion passed.
   c. Deans Evaluation: Erich moved to accept the revised evaluation draft, seconded by Jeff. Motion passed.

New Business:
   a. New Incomplete Forms: Some people have contacted Heath with concerns about the new forms sent out via email. Any other feedback received? Erich: Consistently heard that this form sounded intrusive in requiring student to detail why. Also, why wasn’t this faculty-initiated? Art: Sometimes students needing an incomplete are hospitalized or otherwise unavailable to sign a contract. Send other questions or concerns to Heath.
   b. Faculty Evaluations: Concerns about program directors/department heads having access to these, particularly when heads rotate regularly. Again, contact Heath with concerns.
   c. Faculty Credentials Draft: Forwarded by Dr. Powell as a piece of information, not an action item. The VP of Academic Affairs wants to work with faculty to help them meet the credentials requirements. HLC documentation also doesn’t call for terminating these employees, wanting to know timeline and process for helping faculty receive their credentials.

General Faculty Comments: Nathan (and others) expressed disappointment and/or frustration with how difficult it is to find key documents on the new website.

Meeting Adjournment: Heath adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan Baker