

Discovery Committee Minutes, October 5, 2011

Present: Barb White, Ihab Farag, Jessica Fruchtman, Rosemary Caron, Dennis Britton, Bill Ross, Tom Safford, Kathie Forbes, Michele Holt-Shannon, Sean Moore, David Richman (Absent: Lisa MacFarlane, Steve Pugh, Wayne Fagerberg)

Next meeting: Wednesday, Oct 19, 2011, in MUB ROOM 302

Motion: David Richman moved and Ihab Farag seconded, approval of the minutes of September 21, 2011. **Vote:** 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. **Motion passed.**

The committee took the following action:

The following courses were approved in the categories/attributes listed:

COLA

PHIL 565 – Philosophy Through Film – HUMA, WI

The Committee discussed the following:

The meeting with the Associate Deans on Oct 19 will be in MUB room 302. One thing that will be on the agenda is brief discussion on the database and adjustments that are being made to it in response to feedback Amy received in meetings with each college office. The important conversation will be about how to deliver INQ with the high quality we seek with the current limited resources. We appreciate that we voted in the INQ A but the trend has been an increase in these, and a reduction in 444's. Can we agree to keep 444's propagating somehow? Balancing 444s with resources will be part of the discussion. INQ A has been the path of least resistance for delivering INQ. Retired faculty teaching 444's would be a good idea. Also, summer and J-Term INQ course offerings need to be considered. We will seek common ground with this discussion.

Discussion of e-courses (eUNH) also needs to be on the agenda. We need to be purposeful about what we're getting into. Category courses are acceptable for e-courses but not INQ. Perhaps this committee would recommend a policy/statement to the senate about this, and the senate would vote on it. But we need to know that the Associate Deans are on board first.

Another item to discuss with them is the idea of clustering courses. Students could meet their requirements in clustered themes. Any kind of focused clustering so that their undergrad core curriculum has some coherence behind it and is aligned with their interests. We could start in some areas of interest. Anything we can do that gets us away from the "I need a group 4 that meets on Thurs at 9:40am," mode of completing the requirements would be beneficial. Students do have specific interests so doing this makes sense.

The percentage of fill rates for 444's this year was very good. The chance that your son or daughter could come here and take a small niche course taught by a professor who loves the topic, shows a high commitment by UNH. Not all universities have full professors teaching freshmen & sophomores.

We are anticipating our first report this fall on INQ pilot courses in biology, mechanical engineering, CIE, ECE, and ChE.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.