

Discovery Committee Minutes, April 6, 2011

Present: Barb White, Wayne Fagerberg, Lisa MacFarlane, Kathie Forbes, Michele Holt-Shannon, Art Greenberg, Monica Chiu, Stephen Pugh (by telephone) (Absent: Sharyn Potter, Bill Ross, Heather Barber, Christina Caiazza, Jeffrey Diefendorf)

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2011

The committee took the following action:

The committee was not able to vote on action items as a quorum was not present.

The following courses were tabled pending further information and lack of a quorum:

UNHM

ECN 410 – *Novelists & Economists* – HUMA/INQ/WI after discussion of this course at the meeting of March 23, 2011, the DC determined that though it was proposed for HP, HUMA was the more appropriate category. The faculty person agreed and the course is being resubmitted for HUMA.

COLSA

MCBS 658 – *General Biochemistry* – BS for CHEM students (waiving BIOL 411/412 pre-req for these students only). Tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

Transfer Courses

Plymouth State Univ – *Early American Encounters* – HP – Consensus of the DC is that YES, this course meets the HP requirement.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Review of Discovery Program Guidelines & Requirements document: pages 9 & 10 need to be cleaned up, matched and be integrated; a few others including page 4, UD paragraph.
- University Dialogue: Michele gave a summary of the UD over the last 7 years; the action item is that it is time to restructure the committee to help faculty “buy-in” to the UD for the future. Its connection to the faculty is tenuous and there needs to be more integration and a way to bring this to the faculty’s foreground.

Comments:

- UD committee is a bit too large; faculty at less than 50% participation is not a great idea. If it were a committee of 12 with 6 faculty that would be a better mix; students on the committee are a better idea than adding a foundation person.
- It’s important to have student programming people on the committee for student buy-in.
- Whoever chairs this committee has to be extraordinarily proactive without prejudice to know what is going on on-campus to connect the topic to campus – to scavenge what is going on. Then have the group discuss the ideas to get focused on a topic. The point is to open the process for options on the table.
- We need to have a formal process for solicitation of topics. Soliciting ideas for the UD, send in as a group or individual – send a one-page rationale. A public request each year could generate excitement; the person whose topic is selected may even be able to take whatever funding there is for the UD and use it for programming/speakers, etc, to support the dialogue. It could open up possibilities.
- How to solicit members? After the DC has looked over the proposed UD committee structure, Barb will write to the Assoc Deans to solicit faculty members for the UD committee.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.