

Discovery Committee Minutes, October 06, 2010

Present: Stephen Pugh, David Hiley, David Richman, Barb White, Kathie Forbes, Michele Holt-Shannon, Art Greenberg, Bill Ross, Heather Barber, Lisa MacFarlane, Wayne Fagerberg, (Absent:;, Monica Chiu).

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Sharyn Potter will be joining our group as the representative for Faculty Senate.

COLA

ENGL 521 - Nature Writers – HUMA, 6 votes yes, passes unanimously; Moved by David Richman to approve, Seconded by Bill Ross. WI - Pending information from department, David Richman moves approval for WI 6 votes yes, passes – still need the paperwork for WI. The committee also recommends posting as a model syllabus, with permission from Dianne.

GEOG 473 – Elements of Weather – This is a continuing discussion regarding the lab. Originally submitted for a non-traditional lab to take place outside of class time but still retain DLAB. It was not approved in this form. They are inquiring now if they can return to the prior iteration. The Committee does not encourage resubmission for DLAB self guided by students.

The Committee discussed the following:

1. Student Representation on the Discovery Committee requested by the Student Senate Academic Affairs Council:

The committee is enthusiastic about having a student join the Discovery Committee as a voting member. Barb White and David Richman will check with the Agenda Committee regarding voting status. For Lisa and Barb's conversation with the students, the committee requests they raise these points: Dependability, continuity and confidentiality. This is a positive opportunity and creating a shared understanding of the kinds of conversations that occur around curriculum and rigor. Transparency and accountability are all good things. Need a commitment from the student so that they consistently attend.

2. Orientation: the Role of Discovery maximized?

Within the current schedule, what are the opportunities for conveying messages to students regarding the "meta-moment" and the purposes of their education? A few ideas...

- David Hiley recommends we sponsor some ongoing workshops with faculty on INQ and how to make connections with students about the reasons for their curriculum. Does the DC need to consider Talking points?
- What about small intellectual experiences that could set the state for inquiry and learning about the curriculum? What kind of teachable moment can be compelling at this time? Small experiences led by faculty and staff?
- What questions should students ask when choosing courses?
- Could the dialogue theme create an opportunity for students in small groups to take advantage of a common learning experience? This would emphasize both inquiry and University Dialog theme.
- Wildcat days may be a better time to do a faculty led conversation on the dialogue
- Honors did mini-seminars during honors visit days. Could faculty teaching INQ be called upon to serve in this way during Wildcat Days? Can the DC have access to fund to focus on ways INQ courses, University Dialogue and connections with Orientation would work? Could there be an overarching frame to these pre-orientation experiences.
- Given the schedule, it may be best to focus on wildcat days.

- Need to work more with advising staff and the Orientation Leaders – maybe give them an INQ experience. We need to inspire them into a process of education. They need to know why the faculty did what they did to implement Discovery.
- We need to know more about what Orientation looks like across colleges - The level of engagement of faculty differs across colleges. We need a sense of the calendar and order of events when new students have contact with UNH from college visits, to orientation to Wildcat days... what messages are sent when and by whom? What messages are sent in hard copy and on line? Need to get copies and share them with students. Not inspiring but very pragmatic.
- What are the best practices that we would want to employ?
- We need to consider the UNHM schedule for orientation as well
- At some point invite Judy to a meeting... she can point out the parameters.
- The conversation about Navitas prompted conversations about ways we integrate students into the UNH community.
- Check out UMASS book thing – the Deans book. Group of seniors read 10 books then vote on the one book to be used and they prepare a packet of materials for students. Discovery Fellows could do this one day?

Questions for Judy:

- **Can you give us a sense of the contact we have with FY students from first contact through their showing up for their first year at WC Days?**
- **What would be helpful for your staff?**
- **What do you see as the opportunities for conveying messages to students about learning and discovery and inquiry?**

3. Curriculum Request for Proposals: What are we looking for? Excited about?

Topic for October 20 meeting.

4. Assessment and Program Review: Where do we begin?

Barb recommends reading through the recent *Academe* publication entitled *Assessing Assessment*.

(send link to David for *Academe*) Topic for November 3 meeting.

<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/academe/>

The meeting adjourned at 1:29pm.