

Academic Assembly
June 10, 2013
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Mason Bryan, Carol Wolfe Clay, Lynn Deeken, Bill Ehmann, Terry Foster, William Kangas, Charles Lawrence, Sean McDowell, Erik Olsen, Roshanak Roshandel, Rob Rutherford, John Strait, Jeremy Stringer

- I. Review of 6-3-13 Minutes
 - A. Delay review to 9-30-13 meeting
- II. Process
 - A. AcA can approve, disapprove, or modify and approve the Program Review Committee memo recommending termination of the German minor
 - B. Concern that current procedures are inadequate for thorough suspension/termination review
- III. Recommended Termination of German Program
 - A. Program director's response (*Cordula Brown*)
 1. Errors in enrollment numbers listed in dean's memo
 - a. German 125 course had 25 members, not 9 as the dean said
 - b. German 315 was offered only once, but it was offered cross-listed with a film studies course
 - c. 4 students in Winter quarter 2012 – this course wasn't offered in this quarter
 2. German study abroad has low numbers but it does not pertain to the German minor program
 3. Program contributes to mission and strategic plan
 - a. Diversity – provides another minor opportunity for students in natural sciences
 - b. Global engagement – ability to connect with culture through knowledge of language, enhanced time abroad
 - c. Academic excellence – many graduate subjects require German; adversely affects the ability to study primary source research material in history, philosophy, art
 - d. This year two German students are Fulbright scholars, heightening the profile of the university
 4. Notification Process
 - a. Email from dean inviting faculty member to a meeting with no subject
 - b. No prior notification from or discussion with department chair
 - c. No attempt to work with program director to address challenges
 - d. Maria Carl, chair of curriculum committee of Arts and Sciences was not notified of the program termination
 - B. Department response (*Victor Reinking*)
 1. All previous deans recommended terminating the German minor
 2. Process for determining termination
 - a. Kan Liang attended a department meeting and presented the 5% budget cut
 - b. German was decided upon because it had been slated for cuts, low enrollment, and problems with second year
 - c. Department presented three options to the dean, who made the final decision
 3. Discussion of process

- a. Termination would not have been proposed if not presented with the budget cut, was not part of strategic planning process as recommended last year by Program Review Committee
 - b. Dean, not department, made the final decision
 - c. Issue was not revisited after the budget cut was reduced and funds were reallocated back to the college under an unclear process
 - C. Program Review Committee Memo
 - 1. Recommended a phased program termination with reservations, since several members were conflicted
 - 2. Also recommended college develop strategic planning that would ensure budget does not motivate program suspensions or terminations
 - D. Dean's response (*David Powers*)
 - 1. Budget cut process
 - a. Dean submitted 5% budget cut to Provost's Office
 - b. Provost's Office returned a list of which recommendations they supported
 - c. Total budget cut for Arts and Sciences was about 1.5% of the college's budget
 - 2. Mission, strategic plan and programming concerns
 - a. Original plan was to follow the recommendation of PRC and AcA to track enrollments in Modern Languages for three years and develop a strategic plan
 - b. However, the program review process does not specifically address concerns with minor programs within a department, so German was not specifically addressed in the program review process
 - 3. Discrepancy in enrollment numbers
 - a. Numbers were the highest and lowest enrollment on May 31 of each year
 - b. Minor data is difficult to measure because often students don't sign up for minors until the end of their time at SU
 - 4. Agree with the need for a more comprehensive college strategic plan
 - E. Letter from faculty staff assembly of A&S
 - 1. Currently examining college governance structure in relationship to university governance
 - 2. Faculty Staff Assembly is not structured as a regular governance body with proportionate representation, and lacks the decision-making authority of the Executive Committee
- IV. Program Termination Process**
- A. Reallocation seems unfair
 - 1. Modern Languages proposed German cut after the 5% budget cut mandate, because there was nothing else to propose
 - 2. Dean presented German termination to Provost, who supported that decision and chose to reallocate funds to other areas as well as support new budget requests
 - 3. Does not seem like a comprehensive process was followed to make the cut, seems rushed and non-reflective
 - B. Stakeholders including students and faculty were not involved in decision
 - C. Although the Modern Languages department has over 20 members, only 4 faculty vote
 - D. PRC working on program suspension/termination form
- V. Close for Executive Session at 3:15pm**