

Academic Assembly
October 10, 2016
2:05 – 3:35pm, STCN 130

MINUTES

Present: Sarah Bee, Rick Block, Pat Buchsel, Terri Clark, Brooke Coleman, Carlos de Mello e Souza, Bob Dullea, Theresa Earenfight, Mike Huggins, Kate Koppelman, Vivane Lopuch, Agnieszka Miguel, David Neel, Michael Ng, Tracey Pepper, Trung Pham SJ, Frank Shih, Charles Tung, Dan Washburn, Braden Wild

- I. Review of 10-3-16 Minutes
 - A. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions
- II. Accreditation Discussion (*Bob Duniway, Sophia Sansone*)
 - A. Introduction of Sophia Sansone, new Accreditation and Assessment Manager
 1. Looking for areas where additional support may be beneficial
 2. Involved in coordination of annual assessment and NWCCU accreditation support
 - B. NWCCU report overview
 1. This year we will be drafting the seven-year report that will go to NWCCU
 2. Accreditation makes SU eligible for federal and state financial aid funding, ensures that we are responsive to public and community needs, and provides external feedback on the viability of our educational endeavor/mission
 3. Concerns from NWCCU raised in our year-one report in 2010
 - a. Assessment of learning
 - b. Governance
 - C. Timeline for accreditation process
 1. Fall 2016 campus input
 2. Winter 2017 document review process – need faculty input
 3. March 2017 exhibits and evidence gathered
 4. Spring 2017 editing, assembling, compiling exhibits
 5. June 2017 draft to Cabinet, for feedback August 1
 6. Fall 2017 draft circulates to campus groups, including AcA
 7. Dec 2017 updated final draft
 8. Jan 2018 submit self-study to NWCCU
 9. Spring 2018 NWCCU accreditation team visit to SU
 - D. University Assessment Committee (UAC) and assessment of learning
 1. Assessment process is owned by faculty in the curriculum
 2. UAC initially had one charge to align assessment across curricular and co-curricular areas, has taken on more work since those findings including facilitation of the assessment process
 3. UAC has proposed to become a subcommittee to AcA, to ensure a mechanism by which AcA can fulfill faculty ownership of assessment
 - E. Governance
 1. NWCCU standard 2, “Effective and widely understood system of governance... on matters in which they have a direct and reasonable interest.”
 2. Where do faculty have a reasonable interest and how is governance happening in regard to those areas?
 - F. Discussion
 1. Goal to grow a regular culture of assessment

2. Assessment of Core data is increasingly important to departmental assessment
 - a. Need to develop a clear process of transmitting data from the new Core to departments
 - b. Core assessment committee will be making a report to AcA soon about their first two years of data (assessment was not done in year one)
3. Undergraduate Learning Objectives do not tie to the curriculum in a neatly assessable way, so the process of linking departmental assessment to the ULOs has been complicated
4. Graduate Learning Outcomes were developed by a different process
 - a. Representatives from each school/college with graduate programs collaborated to develop a set of outcomes that speak to what graduate education achieves at SU in every program (with no Core)
 - b. Alignment has become an issue, need to discuss further
5. Threshold for achievement of university learning outcomes through departmental assessment provides room for programs to state they are not satisfied with student achievement and create a measurable plan forward for change

III. Environmental Studies Program Review

- A. After last meeting, AcA had one follow-up question about the possibility to merge with other units in the university with similar focus
 1. Program wrote a thorough response that the possibility has been given consideration
 2. One unit that might be a good fit would be Center for the Study of Justice in Society, but challenges exist because it is not an academic unit with programs
 3. Goal for greater collaboration but not an official merger
- B. Motion to approve PRC memo approving program review
 1. Approved with no oppositions or abstentions

IV. Union Discussion

- A. SGSU does not yet have a stance on the union issue, but is interested in engaging in conversation with AcA – invitation for AcA leadership to attend a meeting with SGSU
- B. Provost met with non-tenure track faculty colleagues in AcA to apprise them of situation before university announcement
- C. Executive Session