Faculty Senate Diversity Committee

February 9, 2012

Agenda

Attendees: B. Merenstein (chair), E. Retelle, J. French, S. Koski, C. Fallahi, J. Werblow, L. Marchese, B. Kopowitz, P. Karpuk, V. Naoumov, B. Zhou, J. Owen, R. Wolff (guest).

1. Minutes approved.
2. Robert Wolff: Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on General Education-committee has actively solicited information from faculty, students, and administration. Have been working on it for 18 months. Proposal is dramatically different because request for more simplified program. First-year program not included because there is no time in the schedule and limited support for first year. The Ad Hoc Committee on General Education had a survey item asking about diversity; Only six out of 100 responses wanted diversity included in general education. R. Wolff stated that there does not seem to be support for Diversity. Several members of the Diversity committee responded to R. Wolff’s information on the survey; belief that more people support diversity than the response. Arguments: Senate supported Diversity. After discussion, R. Wolff suggested that there may be changes at the Curriculum Committee Stage, then Senate has to approve design. Then, Senate will create new committee to make shift to new General Education Program. If something is not in plan and has majority support, then a change will be made. Six people on Ad Hoc Committee on General Education Committee. Concern that one person on General Ed Committee opposed Diversity Initiatives. Members of the Diversity committee strongly opposed the notion that the committee needed to “re” defend the integration of diversity into the curriculum. R. Wolff stated that the “Critical Inquiry Seminar” is an opportunity for faculty, who are interested in teaching diversity, to teach this course and focus on FYE objectives. B. Merenstein suggested that taking the “tags” one step further; students be required to take one course in each of the “tagged” areas, which are D(iversity)-designated, Community Engagement (CE) and International (INTL) and Fitness and Wellness (FW).

Implementation committee and Senate Committee will be able to act on additional suggestions.

Question as to why the Curriculum committee is not being asked to approve it.

B. Merenstein stated that the committee is very concerned about the General Ed Proposal because of the work that the committee has committed time and work to have “D” designated courses; this proposal appears that the D-Designation is being disregarded.

1. Reports
   1. Curriculum Committee: Updates-Strategy how to create more D-Designated courses. Have approximately 10 courses as of February 2012. Need to reach out to individuals who have attended the D-Designated Workshop. Find a way to expedite the D-Designated courses. Criminology has 2-3 people who are interested. S. Koski said the directions were a bit confusing, but could get through it.   
      Curriculum committee walk through the procedures again to make sure the directions are clear.

SUGGESTION: Make a form that can be done online, the print it and submit. Need to discuss the directions for D-Designation.

1. Programming Committee
   * 1. GRACE program update-April 17 Tentative Schedule. Students visit classes, go on tour, lunch with admissions and gifts, Amazing Race, meet with Basketball teams. Asked for feedback and other ideas.
     2. True Colors/GSA Day at CCSU-April 19 Ellen distributed information about this day. Also, if anyone is open to having students in class, please let me know.
2. Upcoming Events
   1. National Girls and Women in Sports Day February 11, 2012, Softball and Lacrosse clinics, and a basketball game.
   2. May 11-12 June Baker Higgins Conference. Speakers: Ann Stanbeck and Susan Campbell. Please submit a proposal for the conference. C. Fallahi is chair for Women’s Gala to raise money for women’s scholarships (DJ, Silent Auction, 5 different types of food). Please put it on your calendar. $175/couple
   3. Brian O’Connell lecture series on April 11, 2012 in Founders Hall.
3. Other announcements and New Business
   1. Issues about membership-concern of Faculty Senate that do not have clear restrictions. C. Fallahi said that there is a restriction. Send bylaws to Faculty Senate.