SAH College Committee

Minutes of Friday, 21 September 2012

Present: Marty Allen (Computer Science), Colin Belby (Geography & Earth Science), Curt Czerwinski (Chemistry), Brian Gordon (Exercise & Sport Science), Susan Kelly (Mathematics), Seth King (Physics), Shelly Lesher (Physics), Dave Reineke (Mathematics), Mark Sandheinrich (Biology)

Excused: Michael Winfrey (Microbiology)

Guests: Bruce Riley (Dean, College of Science and Health)

1. Meeting was convened at 2:15 PM. M/S/P: Mark Sandheinrich to serve as chair for 2012–2013.

2. Noted: John Wilson (Health Professions) will no longer serve on the committee; a replacement to be found by the SAH Dean’s office.

3. Dean Riley discussed the College Committee charge for 2012–2013.

Main charge: the Committee is to provide recommendations to the Dean’s office about how assessment might work at the College level. Questions that might be considered include:

- How standardized would assessment be? How flexible would it be?
- Can the College provide guidance/resources to departments?
- How can assessment be made meaningful, without being too onerous?
- Is there a reason to have a College-wide assessment committee? Is there interest among (some) faculty in such service?

Discussion involved discussion of some distinct models among member departments, and issues with different models of in-progress/post-progress evaluation. A formal charge from the Dean’s office is to be drafted and distributed in the near future.

4. Dean Riley also indicated other potential future issues for Committee discussion:

- **Funds for equipment:** Currently such funds are part of a discretionary pool allocated to the Dean’s office for dispersal to the College. There are no year-to-year guarantees, and funds can be used to replace failed equipment, but provide no guarantee for new equipment. The question raised is whether it possible/desirable to stabilize the situation.

- **Responding to growth in SAH:** Dean Riley provided figures establishing that:
  - SAH currently has 49% of UW-L students, up from 42% in 2006.
  - This growth has mainly come via loss from CLS.
  - We are projected to grow to 51% in the next few years.

Questions raised by this include how we respond to the given growth, and what our needs will be as a College as we continue to grow. In particular, how can we guarantee the “Q” in “GQA” given growing class sizes? Further, how do we continue to serve large numbers, especially when that leads to larger numbers of students who struggle to satisfy our requirements?
5. Discussion also turned to the felt need for 1-credit course(s) on use of data tools like spreadsheets/databases, suitable for science students as an elective skills course. Marty Allen to take this up with the CS department.


7. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Allen