

Academic Services Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2013

Committee Members Present: Sonit Bafna, Amy D'Unger, Peter Hesketh, Denise Johnson Marshall, Susan Liebeskind, Carrie Shepler, Raj Vuchatu (Executive Board Liaison), Susan Wells Parham

Committee Members Absent: Kristen Butler, Helena Mitchell

Meeting Topic: Working meeting to come up with action items for next year's Academic Services Committee

Amy D'Unger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Approval of minutes:

Carrie moved to approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting and Sonit seconded. All members approved.

NOTE: Amy will compile all of the meeting minutes into the final annual report she will write for Ron Bohlander, Secretary of the Faculty. At the beginning of the calendar year, the chair of the committee will present this report to the general faculty, along with submitting the official version of the minutes.

Review of potential future action items discussed in the March 2013 meeting:

Lifelong Learning:

- Amy reviewed the path by which the topic of lifelong learning ended up in the purview of the ASC. During Dr. Bras's presentation to the ASC, he suggested that the topic of lifelong learning, in the strategic plan was not getting much attention and could be taken on by this committee.
- Amy followed up with Dr. Donna Llewellyn (Assistant VP for Learning Excellence), and determined that nothing under Dr. Llewellyn's supervision pertains to lifelong learning.
- Amy also contacted Dr. Nelson Baker of Distance Learning regarding DL's involvement with lifelong learning, but did not hear back.
- Raj said that the Alumni Association needs to be involved in this effort, but no one is championing the effort in that organization. Amy emailed 3 times to the AA contact, but no one ever responded.
- Susan Parham asked if there were other benefits associated with lifelong learning, such as an alumni email address, or library privileges. Unfortunately, the scope of the lifelong learning effort is not clear (indeed is completely open-ended.), and thus her question could not be answered.
- Sonit reviewed his findings about the College of Architecture's lifelong learning efforts. The CoA used to have a very active continuing education program in the late 90s, but it was dismantled in 2004/5. The CoA offers lecture series, professional courses, and has a strong alumni network, but no lifelong learning. All the efforts are professional, not alumni-centric, are not free and are not offered online.

Faculty Restructuring

Raj reviewed the public presentations on the faculty-restructuring proposal.

- The restructuring committee was chartered to redefine the meaning of faculty, based on Dr. Susan Cozzens's proposals. A report from the committee should be available by next spring, covering all the details, including title and benefits. The goal is to have no change to benefits.
- Amy pointed out that almost no other university has the concept of "general faculty." Plus, there has been a proliferation of titles just to provide certain benefits to those with that title. The current job definitions don't have any clear career path for academic professionals, and no staff representation on most campus committees. These shortfalls should all be addressed with the restructuring proposal.
- Raj will keep the ASC posted on the proposal as it is fleshed out. It was requested that Raj report back that it is important to provide details on the plan to the university community at large, along the way to implementation. This will manage faculty expectations, and prevent people from assuming the worst. Meanwhile, the ASC should begin to think about its mission in the new world of a restructured faculty.

STIC (Strategic Technology Investment Committee):

Raj reviewed the purpose of STIC:

- STIC is for major projects on the IT side of campus (each college makes presentations to STIC regarding projects of interests).
- STIC is not involved directly with any of the campus online learning initiatives, but there are many efforts going on for online learning going on at a level below where STIC projects are managed. For example, OIT is supporting MOOCs and the new online degree program within its budget, but there are as yet no big budget items for online learning funded by STIC.
- There is a Learning Committee (headed up by Dr. Donna Llewellyn) that will be reporting back to STIC sometime in the future. This committee should provide the vision for any large-scale efforts for online learning that might involve STIC resources.
- The OIT master plan is being revised right now, under the guidance of Robert Gerhardt (Arch). It includes upgrades to PeopleSoft (Techworks) and SAKAI (T-Square platform). Right now, input is solicited to get a sense of what directions OIT should take.
- Peter brought up the issues of out of date, flaky computers in the classroom, and it was noted that the IT budget is very decentralized. Amy pointed out that the classroom computers are updated every 2 years, and the software checked once a semester. Sonit mentioned that people are bringing their own laptops into the classrooms rather than using the classroom computers.
- The consensus of the STIC discussion was to have the ASC provide a list of faculty needs to OIT, to factor into the master plan. This could be the first project for the committee to tackle in the fall, which will work with the timeframe for the master plan development.

New Business:

Open Access issues revisited:

Susan Parham asked about the status of the implementation of the Open Access policy. Amy reviewed the history of the Open Access effort, how it was an independent proposal that was subsequently moved under the ASC oversight (because it needed to be under some campus governance committee). However, the ASC does not have a charge to set up the implementation committee. That said, it would be a good idea to have an ASC member on the implementation committee. She believes that Ron Bohlander is in charge of setting up the implementation effort. Raj said that he would ask Ron about the status of the implementation committee. Susan P. believes she would be on that committee anyway, as a member of the library staff. If anyone on the ASC committee is interested in serving on the implementation committee, please email Amy to express your interest.

ASC committee for next year:

Doug and Susan Liebeskind will be rotating off the ASC committee this year, and will be replaced by new members, Susan Wells Parham of the library and Kristen Butler of GTRI. The executive board liaison to the committee, currently Raj, is chosen by Ron Bohlander – it is possible that someone new will be chosen for that. The first meeting of the year will be in early/mid August, at which time new officers will be chosen and the new agenda items begun.

Summary of action items:

- Write the committee report for the 2012-13 academic year.
- Draft a brief document to send to Dr. Bras summarizing the committee's efforts to determine the state of the lifelong learning Strategic Plan initiative, and asking him for further direction in defining the scope of the task.
- The committee does not see itself as being involved in developing the faculty definitions as part of the faculty restructuring initiative. Nonetheless, the committee will continue to monitor the restructuring effort, and requests that information on the progress of the effort be provided to the campus on an ongoing basis. Also, redefining faculty will require redefining the role of the faculty governance committees, and the committee should be involved in determining its future mission in the restructured world.
- First order of business for 2013 – 14 committee will be development of a faculty needs report for STIC.
- Anyone interested in serving on the Open Access implementation committee should contact Amy.
- Chair and Secretary of next year's committee will be chosen at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Susan Liebeskind
Secretary, Academic Services Committee