

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

September 5, 2008

204 Whitehurst

MINUTES

Present: Raj Basu, Pam Bowers, Celeste Campbell, Bruce Crauder, Bob Davis, Steve Edwards, Ed Miller, Shiretta Ownbey, Mark Payton, Chris Ross, David Thompson, Mark Weiser, Karen Lucas, and Gail Gates.

1. National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) – Pam Bowers

Three years ago OSU participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). In past discussions members decided it would be beneficial to have broader participation and indicated agreement that they are still interested in seeking broader participation. The NSSE survey will be conducted in Spring 2009. Dr. Bowers noted that typically an email invitation to participate is sent to the students from the Provost. Members discussed that correspondence from advisers or orientation leaders was effective for encouraging student's participation in CLA. Since survey administration will not coincide with freshman orientation classes and the number of students in the population will make individual correspondence prohibitive, members agreed to make announcements in certain courses with high enrollment of freshmen and seniors. Dr. Bowers will draft a script and send it to members for input. She will also send information about NSSE to members now, so that colleges may make announcements in freshman orientation classes this Fall to alert freshmen to the invitation that will be coming in the Spring.

2. Transfer Credit Rounding Update – Karen Lucas

Undergraduate Admissions is holding two student's transcripts pending a decision on rounding of transfer credits. Karen indicated about 200 students per year (not including international graduate students) transfer from schools that are not on the quarter system. Members commented that they would like to have some examples of transcripts and if the rounding percentage could be changed from .33 to .34. Members approved the proposal pending a small change in the ratio for rounding transfer credit hours.

3. Excessive Hours Petitions – Celeste Campbell

Dr. Campbell noted that as a group, the academic performance of students who enrolled in excessive hours for Summer 2008 did not appear to be different from their academic performance during prior terms. The average GPA (2.89) was almost equivalent to the OSU GPA (2.90). Dr. Campbell asked members if they would approve switching enforcement of the overload from the 25% to 50% if an Eprint report was provided to the Directors of Student Academic Services by the Registrar's Office and members agreed to the change. The Registrar's Office modified the petition to include more specific information. Members did raise the issue that the University needed a new student information system to replace SIS that could enforce maximum hours by session.

4. Policy on Fees, Tuition and Special Charges to Students – Gail Gates

Dr. Gates noted that the primary changes to the policy were to reflect changes to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education policy and to update specifics, such as titles, etc. Members approved the changes.

5. Updating 2003-2004 Bachelor of University Studies Plan – Gail Gates

Dr. Gates received a request to extend use of the old Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) degree plan. Half of the students are on the 2003-04 plan which is expiring. Dr. Gates asked members for their thoughts. Dr. Basu noted that Tulsa uses the 2003-04 BUS plan a great deal even as a recruiting tool. Dr. Gates noted that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) are interested in degree completion programs. Dr. Gates will address this issue with the Director of Student Academic Services and bring it back to Instruction Council.

6. Roles of Advisory Committee Members – Graduate College Proposal – Mark Payton

Dr. Payton and Dr. Emslie decided to leave the specific roles of advisory committee members out of the catalog but plan to incorporate the information in a Graduate Faculty Handbook. Members gave their approval of the wording.

7. "PR" Grade – Mark Payton

Dr. Payton noted that he had received feedback from Engineering, Education, and Arts and Sciences regarding the "PR" grade. Dr. Campbell recommended splitting courses into semester-long parts and grade each part separately, however; Dr. Davis commented this would not work for the Aviation courses. Members are in favor of a grade that indicates the course is designed to extend beyond one semester. Dr. Gates will discuss the idea with OSRHE staff.

8. Students Pursuing a Second Degree in the Same Major with Different Options – Celeste Campbell

Dr. Campbell commented that their office is trying to determine if it is possible for a student to declare a second degree if both options are part of the same degree. Members feel that if students can't declare a second degree in this situation we need to inform the students in the catalog. Dr. Gates will ask OSRHE staff for their opinion on the subject. The topic will be discussed in a future meeting.

9. Other

Dr. Weiser commented that the creation of the Entrepreneurship Department has been approved and a department head has been hired, Mike Morrison. Presently the Spears School of Business is working on course development for the program and is considering a campus-wide minor. The college would like to get feedback from members on possible courses that could fit within the campus-wide minor. Dr. Weiser needs this feedback by the end of the month. Individuals will be meeting on October 6, 2008, to finalize the program.

Adjourn: 10:38 a.m.