

Minutes, EPC
March 18, 2004

Reports

1. Chair: reminder that special meeting with WASC team would be on March 25 from 11 to 12 in the Provost's Conference Room. Questions were asked about what the team would be asking us. Elaine S. said they would be mostly interested in the Interim Program Review process. Andy W. suggested that we invite former EPC members who had been more involved in the process to also attend the meeting.
2. APC liaison, Art W.: brought forward a resolution directing chair of EPC to advocate in the Senate for tabling of the draft reading of the new reading of the Academic Affairs Division Mission and Vision Statement. Art W. argued that the faculty needed to know more about what strategies would come out of the mission and vision statements before we approved the language. Others (Elaine M, and Andy W, perhaps more?) argued that the mission/vision statements should be approved before the strategies were approved. Modified language was suggested by Andy W. and Mary H. The motion was voted down.

[Note: the motion to table the Statements was brought the Senate meeting that afternoon and approved by the Senate. We will have plenty of time to work with the language in a future meeting.]

3. Grad Studies, Mary H: reported that the Grad Studies Committee has a great deal of concern over the privatization of graduate programs by funneling them to Extended Ed and into self-support mode.

Business:

1. Psychology, 2nd reading IPR. Passed after an interesting discussion centered around the increase in SFR. The committee appreciated the section in the IPR titled Implications that addressed this problem in particular. Questions were also raised about the quantitative nature of the current assessment in light of the fact that the department has a commitment to a "person-centered" model of education. Heather Smith said the department would like to move to more qualitative methods, including a portfolio approach.
2. Task Force on Program Review. The current list of nominated faculty is:
 - Chair: Greta Vollmer (EPC, English)
 - Elaine Sundberg (Academic Affairs)
 - Carlos Benito (Economics)
 - Edie Mendez (Campus Climate Committee, Mathematics)
 - Art Warmoth (APC, Psychology)
 - Karin Enstam (SAC, Anthropology)

Rick Robison (Library)
Margie Purser (Anthropology)
Elizabeth Martinez (Modern Languages)

The committee moved to have Greta begin with these folks and have a first meeting in the week before Spring Break.

3. Chemistry, changes to major. Mark Kearley first reported that the Chemistry department had decided against changing their minor. The proposed changes involved formally adding 2 units of a research seminar to the major, increasing the total units of their BS to 122. Discussion centered around the issue of units. Elaine S. said that the 120 target for degrees was only a target, and that most BS degrees were more than 120 units. Chemistry is actually light compared to many other BS degrees. Motion to waive the first reading by Andy W. Seconded by Mary H. Question called by ? and motion passed unanimously to the Senate.
4. NSSE report by Rose Bruce. Rose began by summarizing the results in the report. Main discussion was over comparing SSU to other COPLAC schools. Elaine S. noted that really the results were reflective of California kids, not merely SSU. Mary H took issue with certain questions in the report and wanted it to be clear that the low engagement of SSU students may be a reflection of the high cost of living in Rohnert Park and the fact that many of our students had children rather than a reflection of some failure on the part of the faculty. Andy W. clearly stated that the report noted differences between SSU students and COPLAC schools but did not try to explain why those differences were there. Rose B. replied that it was the role of the campus community to discuss why—she wrote the report to get the discussion started. Bob C-S wanted to know why the President's cabinet was so interested in knowing the difference between Freshman and Seniors (see table in back of report).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine McDonald