MINUTES
Academic Senate
October 28, 2014
3:30 p.m.
Alumni Gallery

Members present: Paul Delaney (Professor of English), Mary Docter (Professor of Modern Languages), Michelle Hardley (Secretary - Registrar), Tori Ippolito (WCSA Student Rep), Paul Morgan (Professor of Economics and Business), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Edd Noell (Professor of Economics and Business), Mark Sargent (Chair and Provost), Brenda Smith (Professor of Psychology), Jim Taylor (Professor of Philosophy), Niva Tro (Professor of Chemistry), David Vander Laan (Professor of Philosophy).

Absent:

Others present: Mitchell Thomas (Chair and Professor of Theatre Arts), Cynthia Toms (Director of Global Education), Bill Wright (Associate Provost)

I. Devotion – Paul Morgan

II. The minutes from October 21, 2014 were approved

III. Preliminary Discussion on Protocol for OCP Reviews
Cynthia presented an overview of the proposal that was developed by the Off Campus Programs Committee. This protocol will be used in the regular assessment of our off campus programs. Senators asked questions and suggested changes regarding the proposal and the procedure used to evaluate the programs. They suggested that the Off Campus Programs Committee may want to consider whether the review process might be different for programs with a fixed faculty leader versus programs with rotating faculty leadership.

Cynthia will meet with Mark and the Off Campus Programs Committee for revisions on the final document, which will be brought back to Senate.

IV. Proposal to Remove the Dance Minor from the Theatre Arts Department
Mitchell presented an overview of the history of the Dance minor and rational for its removal. Senators asked questions regarding the proposal and the impacts on the students, the Theatre Arts majors and the Kinesiology department.

Senators voted to approve the removal of the Dance Minor from the catalog beginning in the 2015-2016 year.

V. Assessment of Quantitative Reasoning
Quantitative Reasoning will be assessed in the 2015-2016 school year. Based on a recent conference that Tatiana attended we need to consider changing our definition of Quantitative Reasoning. The language we currently use is not an
accurate reflection of the way quantitative reasoning is defined by the broader constituency. This year preparatory conversations will focus on the way we have defined quantitative reasoning and the student learning outcomes in the Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning GE area. Faculty interested in contributing to the conversation should contact Stephen Contakes in the Chemistry department.

VI. **Continued Discussion on Student Government Concerns**

Last week Tori brought a list of questions she has heard from students to discuss. This week senators focused more time discussing each one.

1. **How student athletes complete their PEA requirements** – We may want to consider the broader issue of our PEA requirement versus focusing only on the athletes. The discussion could include the restriction on repeating a PEA class, having four required PEA classes for every student and the restriction on taking only one PEA class each semester. Mary Docter and Brenda Smith will look into this issue with the various stakeholders.

2. **Instituting variable weighting of classes respective to their rigor/time commitment** – Senate is comfortable with what we have with respect to the weighting of classes.

3. **Adding credits for all labs** – Senate is comfortable with what we have with respect to credit for lab experiences.

4. **Allowing students with two WSI courses in their major to be exempt from having a WSI course outside of their major** – This concerned is being referred to the GE Committee for consideration.

5. **Having faculty focus more on careers, creating partnership between Westmont and other companies for internships and externship programs** – We will have additional conversations on this with Student Life once developments are in place with the merger between the Office of Life Planning and the Internship department.

VII. **Continued Discussion on Mayterm**

Senators discussed some of the documents presented by Bill. Tori mentioned that one of the biggest issues with attending Mayterm for students is the cost. We are reducing our cost to $300 per unit this year (down from $365 last year) which rolls back costs to 2007 levels. There is also a continued concern about the number and types of courses offered.

Continued discussion at a future meeting will be had on this topic.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar