MINUTES
Academic Senate
October 7, 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), 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), Bill Wright (Associate Provost).

Absent: Paul Morgan (Professor of Economics and Business), Cynthia Toms (Director of Global Education),

Others present: Rachel Winslow (Assistant Professor of History)

I. Devotion – Niva Tro

II. The minutes from September 30, 2014 were approved

III. Faculty Position Requests
A. Economics and Business – Replacement for P. Morgan
   This proposal for a replacement position was discussed by Senate.

IV. Program Review Committee Report
   Tatiana presented a report of the work completed in the 2013-2014 year. Last year the committee responded to the six-year program review reports and annual assessment reports, they developed a rubric for evaluating the annual assessment reports, they finalized and posted the program review guide and organized a program review session with the 4 departments completing their six-year reports in 2014.

V. Downtown Santa Barbara Proposal
   Rachel Winslow presented the overall vision for the Downtown Santa Barbara program proposal. It arises out of how millennials are engaging with their world and their increased interest in issues of social entrepreneurship as a compliment to their academic majors. The program is designed to respond to this need by helping students develop both an academic and biblical framework for their interests, and to prepare them with concrete experiences and skills for their life after Westmont.

   Faculty approved the proposal. It will now go to the full faculty for a vote. If the full faculty approves the proposal, then the program will come before Senate for an annual review of its curriculum and its financial viability.
VI. Summary of Critical Thinking Assessment Results
Jim Taylor reviewed the summary document for the Critical Thinking assessment results. Overall, our students score as well if not better than the national sample of students taking the CAT. Jim also outlined 6 recommendations from the assessment team:

1. Select 3-4 critical thinking skills from the list that we can focus on for improvement
2. Identify courses within each division where focused instruction can be given towards these areas
3. Secure faculty members approval to offer a unit of instruction in these areas within their courses
4. Provide faculty members the resources to implement the skill instruction
5. Arrange with the Center for Assessment and Improvement of Learning to administer the CAT test as a pre-post test in those courses
6. Consider changing the Critical Thinking ILO to make it more inclusive of a broader range of critical thinking skills

Senators discussed the summary document and gave suggestions to Jim on additional areas to cover and information to include in his full presentation to the faculty.

VII. Continued Discussion on Tracks of Work for the Strategic Map
Mark presented his initial thoughts on the most popular ideas generated by Senators for the A-2, A-3, and A-4 cells on the strategic map.

Cell A-2
1. Require departments to plan how internships can fit into a 4-year plan - Mark’s suggestion was to wait on the logistics of the proposed merger of the Office of Life Planning and the Office of Internships before we consider how to work on this suggestion
2. Development of an Experiential Learning Center for faculty – This item seemed very similar to 3 other items suggested for cell A-3 (Provide resources [including money] for high-impact teaching, Increase faculty awareness of high-impact learning practices and a teaching and learning center to find best practices in the field). Mark’s suggestion was to develop a task force on this issue and have them work with Patti Hunter who oversees the Faculty Development money and develop possible grant funding opportunities.

Cell A-3
1. Time to share best teaching practices in Faculty Forum and a student panel on learning and teaching practices in Faculty Forum – This is something we can easily begin doing now since interest seems high. Mark will talk with Patti Hunter and have her coordinate at least one session in the spring.
Cell A-4 – it was suggested to wait to discuss the cell A-4 suggestions until Edee Schulze would be able to join a Senate meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar