MINUTES
Academic Senate
December 2, 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), Jim Taylor (Professor of Philosophy), David Vander Laan (Professor of Philosophy),

Absent: Brenda Smith (Professor of Psychology), Niva Tro (Professor of Chemistry),

Others present: Bill Wright (Associate Provost), Scott Anderson (Professor of Art)

I. Devotion – Edd Noell

II. The minutes from November 18, 2014 were approved

III. Proposal to modify the Art major requirements
Scott came to address some of the concerns that Senators had with the proposed changes to the Art major requirements. Senators asked questions regarding the proposal and its impact to students, majors, unit load and general education offerings.

Senators voted to 4-3 to approve the changes to the Art major beginning in the 2015 catalog.

IV. New ILO/GE SLO for the Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning
Based on information learned at a recent WASC conference, our Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning certification criteria are not in line with popular standards for defining quantitative reasoning. The proposal from the General Education Committee adds additional language to the Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning criteria. This language focuses on a student's ability to “interpret, reflect on, and use quantitative models and data in public, vocational, and/or private decision making.” The level of math would no longer be the key to defining a course as using quantitative reasoning. Instead, the focus would be the level of sophistication in applying the mathematical results that would be considered quantitative reasoning.

There was a concern that the added language may cause the removal of courses from the GE category and that the affected departments may be unaware of this possibility. There was also a concern regarding the use of “and/or” in the criteria and how it would impact future assessment efforts.
Tatiana will take these comments back to Steve Contakes to see if the wording should be changed. If modified, it would be vetted through the affected department chairs and brought back to Senate for consideration.

V. **New Certification Criteria for the Understanding Society GE Requirement**
As part of their GE assessment efforts this year the General Education Committee looked at the syllabi and certification criteria for the Understanding Society GE area. The group of faculty teaching in this area have met a number of times and discussed possible revisions to the certification criteria. They have submitted a proposal to revise the criteria for the Understanding Society category.

Senators approved the revisions to Understanding Society GE area.

VI. **Continued Discussion on Tracks of Work for the Strategic Map**
Mark opened the floor for discussion on the idea of creating a teaching and learning center. There was some question as to whether a formal center was needed. Senators made comments about the things they would like to see which would support the improvement of their teaching.

Mark and Patti will meet together to strategize the ways that these ideas could be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar