MINUTES
Academic Senate
April 22, 2014
3:30 p.m.
Alumni Gallery

Members present: Mary Docter (Professor of Modern Languages), Michelle Hardley (Secretary - Registrar), Russ Howell (Chair – Kathleen Smith Professor of Mathematics), Chandra Mallampalli (Professor of History), Chris Milner (Professor of Kinesiology), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Mark Sargent (Provost), Greg Spencer (Professor of Communication Studies), Jim Taylor (Professor of Philosophy), Niva Tro (Professor of Chemistry), Bill Wright (Associate Provost), Annaliese Yukawa (WCSA Student Rep)

Absent:

Others present: Cynthia Toms (Director of Global Education)

I. Prayer

II. The 4/8/14 minutes were approved with corrections.

III. Istanbul Report

Cynthia gave an overview of the recent evaluation of the Istanbul program. The evaluation consisted of Cynthia Toms, Barbara Pointer, Mark Sargent and President Beebe. Cynthia and Barbara aided in the analysis of the leaders and student experiences. President Beebe and Mark completed the on-site visit. The review was done this spring to give the current leaders time to enter into the job market if we decided not to continue the program.

Mark spent time describing his experience reviewing the program on site. He had a very positive experience. He was pleased with the level of engagement our students had with other Turkish students and the community. It was evident that the program leaders had modified the program for their second trip in light of what they learned from their first trip. There was a level of sophistication present in the holistic vision that the leaders had for the program. In the end, he was more positive about the program after his visit than before.

Senators wondered what Senate’s role should be in these discussions. It was decided that Senate’s role was one of evaluating the programs fit for the college not one of evaluating staffing for the program. Senators commented that it seemed difficult to evaluate the program when the report does not focus on the details of the program that would exist without the current staffing.

Cynthia will bring back a revised report with more curricular details on the program and allow Senate to vote on the curricular portion of the program only. The program
will then be moved to the full faculty for a vote with Senates opinion on the curricular aspects.

In general Senate is in favor of the program. They would like to see more details on the curricular aspects of the program but feel good about the direction that the program is going.

IV. **Vice Chair Election Procedure**
Senate had a brief discussion on whether to vote on a vice chair of the Senate now versus waiting until next fall. The faculty handbook states that we vote on a vice chair in the spring. Since Tom’s sabbatical replacement has yet to be named it was decided to wait until Bill could determine his replacement. Once the replacement was named, senators would vote online so that the chair is in place for the fall semester.

V. **GE Memo: Retroactive GE Credit**
Senators discussed the memo sent from the GE Committee to Senate regarding retroactive GE credit for the MA-005 class and Russ’ response. Senators agreed that granting retroactive credit for MA-005 was a special case given the courses history of having Reasoning Abstractly credit at one time, then having it removed and now having it reinstated.

VI. **Calendar Discussion/Proposal**
Proposal #1 - Move the spring break week 2 weeks later in the term to align closer with the public schools spring break week. The E-Team is in conversation on the initial proposal to move spring break from following the 9th week to following the 11th week in the spring semester. This would be a pilot in spring 2015 with an evaluation of its impacts prior to implementation in future semesters.

Proposal #2 - Start the spring schedule 1 week later to allow for a 4 week break between the fall and spring terms. This would result in the spring term and Mayterm ending one week later. Senators were generally in favor of this proposal and it was decided to forward this recommendation to the E-Team as well.

VII. **WASC Assessment Update: Critical Thinking**
Jim gave an overview of the recent critical thinking assessment work that has been done this year. Almost 100 seniors took a critical thinking test this semester. In June the 12 scorers will meet to score each of the tests. Jim will present information on this process and on the assessment test used to the faculty during faculty forum. He would like to use that time to focus on the skills that have been tested and how we can incorporate critical thinking skills training and critical thinking skills testing within our courses and our disciplines. He will not have any data yet from the seniors, but we can begin some good conversation about the assessment instrument and incorporating critical thinking into our classes.
Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar