MINUTES
Academic Senate
April 28, 2015
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)

Others present: Bill Wright (Associate Provost), Cynthia Toms (Director of Global Education)

Absent:

I. Devotion – David Vander Laan

II. The minutes from April 21, 2015 were approved

III. Proposal on the Critical Thinking ILO
After a brief discussion the revised draft was approved as proposed.

IV. Motion on Vertical Sequencing of ENG 002
Discussion continued on the motion to require all students to complete their English Competency prior to their Junior year. While the idea has merit, there is no easy way to implement it without significant drawbacks to the students, advisors and the Student Records Office staff.

The Registrar’s office will come in the fall with some recommendations on ways to implement the idea of vertical sequencing in writing. Some initial ideas are to add the English Competency requirement as a prerequisite to some sophomore level required courses within majors (if those courses exist) or to emphasize its importance through advising to students and advisors.

V. Proposal from Athletics-Kinesiology on PE Credit for Athletes
Mark reported that there were good conversations occurring between the Kinesiology and Athletic departments on this issue. There was a commitment from Kinesiology to ensure that all students had a robust quality of diverse physical education experiences, and a commitment from Athletics to the athletes who were worn out trying to balance their sport and additional PEA units.

Athletics will work with Kinesiology over the summer to adapt what they do for athletic prep to meet the quality standards set by the Kinesiology department. The
hope is that 2-3 courses could be developed with KNS department approval and would be geared specifically towards athlete training.

VI. WASC Report
Bill gave an overview of the task to review the draft of the self study report and asked Senators for feedback on its content. The critical questions were whether there were pieces missing in the report and whether this report tells the story of Westmont College.

Senators discussed the content of the draft. Various suggestions for changes were made, and comments offered on different areas to highlight and additional topics to add to the report.

If committee members have any other thoughts they should send them to a member of the Steering Committee or to Bill.

VII. Discussion on Possible Change to Spring Break 2016
Senators discussed the implications of moving the Spring Break to be in line with the local K-12 school districts in the spring 2016 semester.

Senators voted to move the recommendation to the E team for consideration. If approved spring break 2016 would be moved to March 28-April 1.

VIII. Proposal for Oral Communication Competencies
The Program Review Committee (PRC) made minor edits to the Oral Communication Competencies document. This document was originally created by the General Education (GE) Committee and edited by the Communication Studies department. The PRC is asking Senate to approve the document so that they can move forward in developing rubrics for each area.

Senate believes this document is headed in a good direction. Suggestions are appreciated if there are additional edits that are needed. Conversations on this document will continue with the Registrar and the GE Committee.

IX. Additional Agenda Item
A concern was raised about the placement of the faculty staff appreciation luncheon. This year it is on the same day that grades are due. This puts an additional burden on faculty as they have 3 less hours to grade if they attend the luncheon. Could the luncheon be scheduled after the grading deadline versus on the last day that grades are due?

Mark will take this idea to the E-Team meeting this week as a possibility for next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley