College Curriculum Committee

February 21, 2017, 3:30 pm

Chancellor Room

MINUTES

**Members Present**

Business: Fiona Machlachlan, Yassir Samra

Education: Tedd Keating, Corine Fitzpatrick

Engineering: Goli Nassoni

Liberal Arts: Jennifer Edwards (Chair), Kimberly Fairchild

Science: Edward Brown, Jianweh Fan

CFA: Carol Hurwitz

Absent: Evi Voudouri

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm.

I Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

II Welcome of new member

Evi Vourdouri is replacing John Leylejian who is on sabbatical leave.

III Approval of Minutes from January 24 meeting

The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

IV Chair’s Report

The chair reported that the bylaws revision was approved by EAC.

The chair reported that EAC discussed the academic calendar for the next two years. Because of the error in the calendar from 2016-17 that added two extra days to the semester, adjustments were made to the calendars for 17-18 and 18-19. Those calendars will add one extra day to the winter break (pushing back the start of the semester back one day) and add Holy Thursday to the Easter holiday. The chair reports that faculty in attendance at EAC would rather have both days used to push back the start of the semester. The chair also noted that in spring 2018 there will be back to back Mondays the final week of classes. Additionally, in spring 2019, there are two “pretend” Mondays to accommodate the appropriate number of days.

Some committee members expressed concern about starting the semester in the middle of the week. Such a start creates difficulty with scheduling and organizing our courses for the semester. Moreover, the longer break at Easter is disruptive to class schedules. The committee was concerned that the learning and classroom time were not being prioritized.

Commencement is on Friday now.

The Senate is also addressing the calendar issue.

EAC also discussed the Off-Campus Course Policy. The CCC suggested that it should be made clear whether the policy includes community colleges. The question was made regarding who (which Dean… the student’s school/major or the Dean of the school in which the course is offered) approves the courses. The committee also suggested that the courses be approved by the chairs of the relevant course department.

V Core Competencies in 24 Shared Credits

English 110 and Religious Studies 100s, 200s, and 300s were mapped by the chair with collaboration with the religious studies chair. The 12 shared credits are mapped. The remaining 12 credits require too much interpretation and differ too widely across the schools to be feasibly mapped by the CCC. Overall, the committee believes that a taskforce should be charged with the task of mapping the shared credits as it is outside the purview of the committee. The CCC is the committee to approve and vet the mapping, not create the map.

The committee expressed concerns over the mapping process. As chairs and departments have been completing their maps, it is clear that there is no consistency in the interpretation of the designations I, X, etc. For example, should 100 level courses be able to “meet” the criteria? In other words, if X is placed under critical thinking for a 100 level course, the assumption is that the student has fulfilled their critical thinking criteria. There are large concerns about the validity and reliability of the mapping. Without proper training on the designations I, X, etc., chairs and departments are free to interpret the designations as they see fit. This means that across the College there is no consistency. This renders the mapping process and final product meaningless. Moreover, without reliability, the instrument is not useful for assessment.

VI Other Business

There was discussion and concern about the articulation agreements with the Camino program. The committee wants to review any articulation agreements as we stated previously: “We are open to accepting the program as a gateway to the SCPS BS Organizational Leadership Program only. We are open to reevaluating the program once the articulation agreements are developed. We want to be clear that the students should be applying as regular transfer students in the meantime, until the CCC has had the opportunity to review the articulation agreements.”

Adjourned: 4:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Fairchild