

Faculty Senate Meeting 10-8-08, #281 Committee Reports

Academic Council: Susan Mengel

- The Gen Ed Committee has been dissolved and replaced by the new Core Curriculum Committee. This committee is made up of approximately 70 people, and contains nine sub-committees. The committee reports to the Academic Council.
- Associate Vice-Provost Gary Elbow announced that the Core Curriculum Committee will be reviewing the core curriculum on an ongoing basis.
- The Committee has set up four major criteria for courses in the core curriculum. These are: 1) Junior and Senior-level courses are not recommended in the core curriculum; 2) courses in the core curriculum should be accessible to all students; thus is it not advisable for courses with prerequisites to be included in the core; 3) only courses that can be offered on a regular basis should be in the core; and 4) all core courses must have learning objectives documented in the syllabi, and be assessed according to department and college objectives.
- With regards to the above, courses already on the core which do not fulfill the above criteria will be “grandfathered,” so faculty do not have to remove these courses from the core immediately unless their department decides that this is the best course of action.

Graduate Council: Lakhani

- Senator Lakhani stated that a proposal has been made for a Distance Doctoral Program in Special Education. Senator Lakhani felt that the faculty should be made aware that the diploma for this degree would not state that the learning was done through distance education.

Ad Hoc Committee on Handling of Student Course Evaluations: Syma; Barnes-Burroughs

- A recommendation has been made that faculty be allowed one year in which to challenge the findings of student course evaluations, if it is discovered that there has been an obvious error in the evaluation process. No decision has been presented yet.
- Senator Syma spoke to Vicky West at Institutional Research, who will take the matter up with the Provost’s office.

Provost Search Committee: River

- The Provost search is on schedule. In-person interviews of up to eight candidates will take place at DFW before Thanksgiving. Up to five finalists will be brought to Lubbock between Dec. 1 and 10th for on-campus interviews.

Provost Council: River

- Interim Provost Winer asked for proposals for use of the Academic

Incentive money. Dr. Steward announced that a number of good proposals have come in, but that no decisions have yet been made.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: River

- The Task Force has met twice. It is looking at institutions that have implemented responsibility-centered management.
- Dean Eibeck is chairing the Task Force, which will meet every two weeks.
- Expect an open process: the Task Force will have a web page on which information will be posted; and members of the Task Force will be available to make presentations to university groups, when requested.
- In response to a question from Senator Held, President River stated that before the Efficiency Task Force was dissolved and reconstituted as the Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force, the impetus of the Task Force was moving away from issues of faculty workload. Although the Task Force is still in its early stages, it seems to be much more focused on issues such as responsibility-centered management.