

Interdisciplinary Studies Committee Meeting

September 5, 2012

11:00 A.M. – Crane Room

Memorial Union

Present: Nancy Tate, Jaeyoon Park, Park Lockwood, Hwa Chi Liang, Mary Sundal, Mark Kaufman, Rosemary Walker, Bill Mach, Royce Kitts, Larry McReynolds, Joan Bayens

Not Attending: Corey Zwikstra, Shelbie Konkel, Anthony Ho

Guest Presenters: Alan Bearman and Keith Rocci

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Nancy Tate. After introductions were completed Nancy asked Dr. Alan Bearman to present his proposal to the committee.

1. Dr. Bearman offered historical and statistical data relevant to the proposal of requiring WU 101 or IS 100 as a requirement for students. Dr. Bearman indicated in this proposal, targeted student populations would be required to pass either WU 101 or IS 100 with a minimum grade of C. Those targeted populations include:
 - a. First-time freshman students entering Washburn University direct from High school (enroll in WU101).
 - b. First-time freshman students not direct from high school with fewer than 12 hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution (enroll in WU101 OR IS 100)
 - c. Students transferring with 12 – 23 hours completed who have not completed a university success course with a minimum grade of C (enroll in WU101 or IS 100)

Those students transferring with 24 or more credit hours completed at an accredited post-secondary institution with a GPA of 2.0 or higher are exempt.

2. The discussion involved how these courses helped with retention. It was indicated the courses help connect students to the university and with other students in their community while developing skills that may allow them to be successful in their course work. The course materials cover all of the areas that could possibly help students including: tutoring, workshops, early outreach, etiquette, multi-cultural efforts, passport activities (plays, convocation, etc.). It was discussed how this proposal is just one piece of the much larger effort to help with retention. He also indicated the team of instructors knows when a student drops out of one of the courses and the student is contacted to find out why. If possible, there is work done to help the student with whatever issue might be occurring (homesickness, academic performance, not connecting, etc.).

Several Questions were asked of Dr. Bearman:

1. Are these classes meant as a general education requirement for the university?

Answer: No, if passed, these courses will be required only for those targeted populations. It is strongly recommended that other students take independent online modules

2. Would students with over 24 credit hours of college work still be able to take the class either voluntary or requested by an advisor?

Answer: Yes, Dr. Bearman indicated they hope to offer 19 traditional sections and 1 online section (for distance learners). Students who take one of the courses would

3. Would juniors or senior transfers have to take the proposed class?

Answer: They are required as incoming transfer students to take the course if they fit into one of the targeted populations.

4. Are there enough resources to cover the 20 section load?

Answer: Yes, although they are always recruiting the right kind of instructors.

Encouragement to the committee members was given to contact Dr. Bearman of their interest in teaching one of the sections.)

5. Will this affect other departments?

Answer: Yes. Dr. McGuire, Honors Dean, will be proposing HN101 for the honors students.

Although there is a section designated now for the honors students, it was decided to have a parallel course that will be offered with this proposal. (We will handle the HN101 proposal electronically unless there is reason to meet and discuss it. No opposition offered.

After continued discussions, Dr. Tate asked for a committee vote. A friendly amendment was offered as the following:

“Targeted student populations are required to pass either WU101: The Washburn Experience or IS 100: The College Experience with a minimum grade of C during their first semester at Washburn University. “

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed courses with the friendly amendment. The committee vote was 7 approved (8 approved with 1 through e-mail) with 1 dissenting vote. The proposal, approved by majority, will now be sent to Academic Affairs Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

On September 12, 2012 by electronic vote, the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee approved three (3) items: September 5, 2012 Interdisciplinary Studies Committee meeting minutes, HN101 course (WU101 for Honors students), the revised agenda item (includes HN101 and rewording of the first paragraph of the catalog language beginning "The targeted student populations below...") with 8 approvals and 4 abstentions.