

**Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
April 28, 2011
Meeting Notes**

Committee members in attendance

Paul Byrne
Becky Dodge
Cal Melick
Kathy Menzie (Chair)
Kanalís Ockree
Randy Pembroke (ex officio)
Mary Sheldon
Vickie Kelly (for Linda Croucher)
Debbie Isaacson

Guests:

Alan Bearman
Keith Rocci
Ann Callies
Nancy Tate, Associate VPAA

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Menzie.

I. General Education

The committee reviewed and discussed the General Education Options, which committee members had presented to faculty in their respective areas of campus. The committee discussed the feedback they received and how best to proceed.

Action: The motion was made to move the proposed General Education Option 2 out of the Academic Affairs Committee, contingent upon the implementation piece to be completed over the summer by a committee similar to last year's committee that worked during the summer. The motion carried unanimously.

The 2011-2012 Academic Affairs committee will discuss the implementation plan and, if passed, will place Option 2 with the implementation plan on the agenda to be considered by Faculty Senate.

The committee further discussed various ways to familiarize faculty with this option so that they would better understand it.

II. WU101 Course Proposal

The WU101 Course Proposal was reviewed by the committee in an earlier meeting, at which time the committee requested additional information be provided to the committee before they voted on it.

The course proposal information requested was provided by Dr. Alan Bearman. Dr. Bearman, Ann Callies and Keith Rocci joined the meeting to answer questions. The committee reviewed the material prior to the meeting.

During the discussion, the committee expressed some of the following concerns:

- The cost of the class may be prohibitive to students. It would be important to bring value to all students, not just conditional students.

Dr. Bearman said the evidence supports combining the conditional students with the regular admission students.

- The committee was concerned as to whether there would be enough faculty to teach the classes, in addition to keeping the class sizes reasonable, if this is implemented campus wide.

Dr. Bearman said the estimate is 50 students per class. In the MWF model being taught this fall, two classes per week in are being split, which will reduce the size of the class. Some evening and on-line classes will also be available. Initial implementation, if approved as a core in the new general education curriculum, would require 16 classes.

In response to a question about faculty assignments, Dr. Bearman said the classes are built on a model in which a faculty member is assigned to each class as an instructional leader. According to Dr. Tate, the administration has agreed to assign a faculty member as instructional leader for each WU101 course.

- Who would be teaching?

Dr. Bearman said each class will be assigned a team, which consists of a lead faculty member, an academic advisor, a librarian, and a peer mentor. In addition, these teams will be encouraged to meet outside the classroom.

- Would it be possible to test out of a class or to do pretesting for placement?

Dr. Bearman said potential for exceptions always exist, but what they will be is hard to say.

- What are plans for improvement / adjustments to the curriculum?

Dr. Bearman said the Oversight Committee will help guide the content and provide continuous improvement for the course. They are willing to change the curriculum if what they are using is not working or is not achieving the desired outcome.

He added that the average student retention rate has been 59% during the last 6 years, with little movement. We lose 40% of the first year students. This must improve and is the driving force behind the proposed First Year Experience program. Kansas Board of Regents requires a 10% increase by 2020.

- How will the course be assessed?

Dr. Bearman said the learning objective for this course is information literacy and it will be assessed on this LO, along with the other outcomes listed in the model syllabus.

The guests were thanked and dismissed from the meeting.

Action: The motion was made to recommend to the faculty senate approval of WU101 as an elective, as presented in the documentation. The motion carried with 6 yes and 2 no votes.

Note: Jeanne Catanzaro and Debbie Isaacson were absent at the time of the vote, but voted in absentia to approve this motion.

III. Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2011

The meeting minutes for March 31st were sent to the committee members for their review prior to the meeting.

The motion was made and carried to approve the minutes as presented.

Meeting adjourned.