D.E.C. MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2017
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., LIB 301

Call to order/ Introductions at 12:32 p.m.

Members and Guests In Attendance: Karel Jacobs, Joni Jackson, Mike Sukowski, Patrice Boyles, Bernard Rowan, Richard Darga, Arthur Redman, Rosalind Fielder, Agber Dimah

What question that arose: Who are voting and non-voting members of the DEC? The appointed members, which include: 5 from each of the colleges – CAS, Business, Health Sciences, Education, Library / Inst. Serv., 2 representing the Provost (see Sign-In Sheet).

Update the Bylaws for the January meeting
Approval of minutes of previous meetings. Dr. Boyles made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendments. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

JANUARY AGENDA ITEMS:
- Bylaws (quorum and voting members)
- Communicating the value of online education and programs
- Prashant Shinde will be invited to the January meeting, to discuss the academic IT strategy.

MEMBER REPORTS & COMMENTS

Dr. Patrice Boyles. CTRE (P. Boyles) - Hosted a Fulbright Scholars Program on November 15. Feedback was quite positive.
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Mr. Mike Sukowski. Four months ahead of schedule. Last Friday, IBHE, approved offering of courses outside the state of Illinois. National SARA to CSU Buy application was submitted. College of Education and College of Business (undergrad / MBA) plan/hope to offer courses nationally. Health Sciences is working on the development of graduate online courses. College of Arts and Sciences is working on offer courses in India. College of Education is exploring an offering in Vietnam. Dr. Darga added, close to 200 students, a Masters in Higher Education with a focus on Community Leadership.

Dr. Redman asked: What is SARA? He thought the promise of online education was open education, anytime, anywhere, for all. Dr. Jacobs notes that these classes are different from MOOCs.

Responses: State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Created by US Department of Education in response to rise of for-profits, to ensure quality of education. SARA looks at quality? Ensures some standard. Programs were not accredited and approved before, which prohibited people from taking online courses across state boundaries. Loyola was hit with a cease and desist order from the state of Arkansas (students enrolled in online engineering course). SARA is a relatively new 'movement' to regulate and ensure quality from for-profits, which "profited off the backs of students then saddled with student loan debt." By being part of the organization, every institution is guaranteeing the quality of their teaching and learning. For profits are not joining SARA but instead open satellite campuses in state.

Dr. Rowan. Being in SARA is about authority. You do not have a right to give degrees to students in different states. It's about federalism and state's rights.

Mike Sukowski was asked a question, what would make a student choose an online undergrad degree from CSU. Mike suggested that CSU needs to go with its strengths, for example by focusing on minority or urban business. MIT is offering 4 free undergrad business courses – not MOOCs.

It might be helpful to do a broader presentation about SARA, something university-wide.

Karel Jacobs had discussion with faculty about online education. Some disconnect between promise and what is happening in online world. Maybe we can add this as an agenda item in January to discuss the value of online education /program offerings.

Dr. Arthur Redman is co-chair of the revamped University Advisors' Council. This is an opportunity to reach out about what is going on. Fantastic idea – Dean Darga – as we think about online advising, for example, it is really important to grow effectively to communicate and share. Communication and sharing remain a challenge (M. Sukowski).

Dr. Boyles, Mr. Sukowshi, and Dean Darga – may consider forum to discuss things faculty need to know.

WiFi in the classroom. CSU Lab WiFi, much faster access. Disconnect between what IT thinks and what is necessary and what faculty deems necessary. We may need a separate meeting on this issue.

We may need an academic computing function to address faculty priorities; we need an academic voice in the growth of IT on campus. There may be a steering committee that might serve that role. Can we have a voice on the IT Steering Committee; Rosalind Fielder is the Senate representative on this committee. Dr. Jacobs is also on this committee. Who is chair of IT Committee on Senate (there is not one). The IT Steering Committee has not yet met. So that will be on the January agenda.

Dr. Rowan asked what people know about WiFi and phones. We need a guide or cheat sheet for logging into WiFi and for use of the phones.

It is important that we examine updating faculty computers, particularly for those teaching online. There is a Steering Committee. M. Sukowski suggested that there may be a need for a separate committee that address the overall strategy for classrooms, for access, for technology, instructional technology, from the academic side. Prashant Shinde will be invited to the January meeting to discuss the academic IT strategy.

Dr. Rowan. Be careful not to stray from your mandate (that of the DEC). This committee should focus on its mandate. New policy needs. More courses, programs. This committee is a service committee.
The DEC Committee would like to meet with the IT Steering Committee.

M. Sukowski. Online learning will be successful if technology is working.

An Aside: Dr. Boyles – we need to migrate to Microsoft Office 365, which provides automatic updates, which is driving the leasing of equipment to stay up-to-date.

Dr. Arthur Redman. General Education. We are not doing anything that is particular to this committee right now. Trying to get outlying programs to update to new Gen Ed. He has reported to everyone that he is on the DEC. The courses listed on M. Sukowski's handout regarding the COB's needs for online Gen Ed requirements (e.g., Math 1400, Biology, Philosophy 2520 / Business Ethics, CMAT 1140 / Business Communication, English 1270 & 1280 / Business Writing).

Dr. Rowan: Do we have a route for anyone to complete all Gen Ed courses online today? We need morning, we need evening, we need multiple sections, we need more options – so moving to an undergrad degree online is a huge deal. It implies a significant investment of university and college resources. Some courses will have synchronous classes, some will not.

M. Sukowski. Right now, undergrad degree for college of business will be offered for transfer students who will have met all of undergrad Gen Ed requirements. M. Sukowski has a list of all online Gen Ed courses. He will provide a copy to Dr. Jacobs.

Provost Office – Dr. Rowan. In addition to face-to-face and hybrid, you have to have an online course, every semester. Provost may have a working group to discuss online faculty member. We may have faculty who teach online – those with particular training or practice, to prepare to address curriculum issues. Some of the issues may include, How do we validate people (i.e., students)? How do we assess online programs?

Contract language has been approved, so we will not be making changes to the language. So when would be the proper time to make changes to the DEC changes in the contract language.

Professor Fielder noted that, any changes should begin as early in the spring semester as possible.

Dr. Rowan: Provide the list of changes now.

NEW BUSINESS

Model Course. Can we decide on a model course? DEC Website. We seek to provide a guide for faculty. Mike and Theo provides some templates that we can highlight on the website. The design documents and the entire course.

Why not put out a call for "folk knowledge" – people who do courses well. What are best practices? We need to expose faculty to different methods and allow faculty to select the methods that work best for their course.
M. Sukowski. For SARA we need to show that we are using nationally approved method for quality? For use, we are using completion ION courses. Some institutions use Quality Matters.

Dr. Rowan. We cannot make authoritative the ION rubric. A best practice is often there for aspiration.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Joni Jackson

APPENDIX A.

This document was provided by Mike Sukowski for inclusion in the minutes.