

Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee
December 2, 2010
UC 3171
Presiding: Rick Ward

Present: Mary Fisher, John Gosney, Steve Graunke, Kathy Johnson, Howard Mzumara, Rebecca Porter, Rick Ward, Jeff Watt, Gayle Williams, and Marianne Wokeck

Regrets: Sarah Baker, Michele Hansen, Sarah Lang, Susan Montgomery, and David Sabol

1. Ward welcomed committee members. Meetings next semester will begin at 8:30 a.m.
2. Changes in Department of Psychology Curriculum:
Johnson explained how the process of changing the curriculum came about. She said her department has been influenced by the Gateway to Graduation Program and the work they do. Johnson discussed the changes that will take place, including B104 having a broader focus on foundations in psychology. She told about the process they are going through to write a new textbook. Johnson said B105 will become B205 and explained how it will affect other majors requiring the current B105. She told how the department plans to roll out the changes for implementation in fall 2012. Johnson distributed a handout with the proposed curriculum changes. The committee discussed these changes as well as degree audits, impact on other programs, transfer issues, and the proposed required course in multicultural psychology. Ward suggested inviting Kate Thedwall to a meeting to present the work the Gateway to Graduation Program has been doing with critical thinking and developmental issues. The group worked with the Department of Psychology. Gateway has a way to help people think through what they want students to learn from class.
3. Updates:
Ward gave an update about a committee he serves on for general education. They are looking at problems students face such as transferring credits and using those credits efficiently. He told about discussions that are taking place at IUB about general education. IUB is working on something called “common ground,” or courses that all students would have to take. We need to look at our degree programs and map them against the common ground. Ward read part of a proposal that was submitted recently about this. The committee discussed the proposal, the LEAP initiative, mapping, and technology issues related to this. Ward said the resolution was tabled so it will go before the Faculty Council for discussion. Ward gave an update about the road map project. He told about Buyarski’s presentation on the PDP and IUB’s work on an early warning system. The committee discussed early warning systems and communication with students.
4. Summit:
Ward distributed a handout with a summary of the top ideas from the summit. This summary was presented to Dean Sukhatme. The committee discussed the first idea, a special summer online or hybrid “connector course” between the first and second years. After discussing the difficulties of implanting the course, Ward asked for suggestions on what to do with the other summit ideas. The committee discussed prioritizing the ideas, using task forces, and looking

at one issue at a time. The committee decided to help roll out the PDP as a framework for some of the other issues. Porter gave examples of using the PDP with registration and transfer students. The committee discussed involving a student and the Faculty Council in the rollout process. The committee agreed to use the January meeting as a working meeting to work on the PDP issue. Johnson suggested looking at the work they did in Vermont. Ward will send out the report. The committee discussed involving students to rename the PDP. Ward reviewed some of the policy suggestions that came out of the summit. After the committee discussed the suggestions, Fisher and Ward agreed to work on getting the university to find ways to reward faculty and staff who foster student engagement.

5. Update on RISE:

Porter distributed data on RISE. She reviewed this data. The committee discussed the number of research classes and if they are meeting the designated requirements.

6. Spring Summit:

Ward announced that the spring summit was scheduled for April 15. He asked the committee if the summit should continue with the combined format of having the CRG and EMC work together. The committee discussed focusing on the PDP for the agenda. Ward suggested the summit should focus on implementation strategies. Watt believes the faculty need practice with the PDP rather than just looking at it. The committee discussed how to present the PDP to the faculty and different ways to implement it. Wokeck suggested targeting senior faculty who mentor junior faculty.

7. Adjournment.

Action Items:

- Ward will invite Kate Thedwall to a meeting to present the work the Gateway to Graduation Program has been doing with critical thinking and developmental issues.
- Ward will share the proposal about the common ground's 30 hours and the Vermont AAC&U report.
- Fisher and Ward agreed to work on getting the university to find ways to reward faculty and staff who foster student engagement.

Submitted by:
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