DATE: February 4, 2014  
TIME: 11:00 am.
PLACE: BSC 336
PRESIDING: James Callaghan, Vice-President for Academic Affairs

1. Invocation -- Will Mullins, Chaplain


3. Agenda for February 4, 2014 meeting clarified and approved.

4. President’s Report - President Steele thanked the faculty and the Academic Task force for their continued work on the General Education in the Liberal Arts and Sciences proposal. President Steele noted that the Executive Board meeting was held despite the recent bad weather and reported that the Board had approved a salary increase pool of 2.75%.

5. Report, Academic Programs Task Force - Dr. Rick Nutt stated that with the vote pending on the proposal from the Task Force, he had no report at this time.

6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Recommendations -- Dan Wilson, Registrar

   A) Consider proposal from the Arts and Humanities division to add IDIS 2XX: Introduction to American Studies to the permanent offerings, and to the American Studies major and the American Experience category of the LAE. (Attachment D). Approved.

   B) Consider proposal from the Academic Programs Task Force regarding General Education in the Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment E available online):

   (The approved agenda clarified that the below would be considered as a whole.)

   i) Categories and descriptions.
   ii) Hours in each category.

   Motion made to not implement the new Gen Ed. requirements until 1) The faculty had adopted new categories, 2) Populated the new categories with courses, and 3) A faculty vote had approved the new Gen Ed. package. Moved and Seconded. Approved.

   Curriculum Committee had amended the proposal as follows (Displayed by Registrar):

   a) An amendment was unanimously approved to strike the sentence “This excludes ENGL 121: Composition and COMM 200: Fundamentals of Speech Communication” and move the paragraph that begins “In satisfying the General Education…” to between category 2 and category 3, and to add “for the following categories” at the end.
b) By common consent the Committee struck the second instance of the word “understanding” from category description for IV. Religious Understanding.

c) By common consent the Committee changed the description under VI. Quantitative Reasoning from “…and in applying basic quantitative skills…” to read “…or in applying quantitative skills…”

The amended proposal had passed Curriculum Committee by a vote of 9 to 1.

Discussion on categories and descriptions.

Motion to change wording of Scientific Understanding description to read: “This category is designed to develop an understanding of the scientific method, and the forces and elements inherent in the natural world.” Strike: “all of which affect the quality of our lives and the environment.”

33 for, 36 opposed. Defeated.

Friendly amendment to change wording of Quantitative Reasoning from Curriculum Committee amendment (section c above) back to original wording (change or back to and).

Friendly amendment seconded. Approved.

Question called. Moved and seconded to end discussion. Approved.

Motion to vote moved and seconded. Paper ballots requested and distributed.

Ballots: Yes 64, No 10, Abstention 1. 1 Spoiled Ballot.

General Education in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Approved.

7. Report, Faculty Executive Secretary - Dr. Stephen Van Horn – No report at this time.

8. Report, Vice-President for Academic Affairs- Dr. Callaghan stated that he would have information posted regarding Summer Muskie Fellows and a new entrepreneurship track with MCBI. The deadline is currently February 21, 2014, but might be extended. Dr. Callaghan thanked faculty for all of their hard work regarding the Gen Ed requirements and encouraged departments, divisions and faculty to start thinking about the next phases of the project.

9. Announcements

Dr. Rick Nutt thanked the faculty for their work on the Gen Ed changes and for their vote today. He stated that the Academic Task Force would soon have guidelines available regarding how to populate the Gen Ed requirements with courses, so that they could be discussed in Divisions next week.

Dr. Rataiczak informed the faculty of a recent article in Gas & Oil that discusses the impact of the gas and oil industry on offerings and programs in education. Dr. Stephen Van Horn was interviewed in the article and the new Petroleum Geology program was discussed. Link below.


10. Adjourned 11:59am.