

Faculty Council Meeting 1/10/18

Faculty Council Minutes

Present:

Tony Rafalowski, Sara Youngerman, Dama Cooley, Melissa Sellers, Becca Rhea, Lisa Matlock, Lawrence Gunderson, Mechel Camp, Benjamin Lawrence, Emily Fortner, Claude Bailey, Billy Wesson, Liz Mayo, Tim Britt, and Josh Britt

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm in McWherter 137.

Minutes from December 5, 2017 were read. Proposed changes were recorded to correct typographical errors. Lawrence Gunderson made a motion to accept minutes with proposed changes. Claude Bailey offered a second of the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Announcements

The Chair asks for email from council members to be sent regarding their last class of the day for both Monday/ Wednesday and Tuesday/ Thursday schedules in order to identify best possible dates for scheduling of Spring 2018 Faculty Council meetings.

1.1 A meeting of Assessment of Administrators Committee is scheduled to occur on January 11, 2018 in the Kisber Conference Room at 1:00 PM. Updates on the progress of Assessment of Administrators will be provided at the February meeting by The Chair and Faculty Council Representative Claude Bailey.

1.2 Early College High School (ECHS) focus group meets at 10 AM on January 11, 2018 in the library with Dr. Hamilton. Faculty members have been invited to participate based on recommendation from Deans. These recommendations were made based on faculty with most experience teaching ECHS students.

1.3 The Chair reminded Council members to follow up on shared concerns of faculty regarding identification of purposeful, proactive recommendations for action by hosting house meetings within their divisions. The Chair requests these meetings be held before spring break so that Faculty Council can discuss findings and recommendations prior to end of the semester.

Other

An email from Linda Nickell listing the amounts of diversity scholarships and awards given from Fall 2014-Fall 2017 was reviewed by all Faculty Council members.

Follow up on the University Tennessee at Martin (UTM) agreement was discussed with the chair sharing a list of all courses being offered at McWherter by UTM, and an update was shared that JSCC faculty and staff will have access to UTM library collections.

Old Business

2.1 Tim Britt discussed advising issues regarding MATH 1530 class and co-requisite math lab. The math lab must provide support of student abilities to meet all college level math requirements as well as MATH 1530 so the material needs to cover MATH 0030 (what the old Modules 1-7 covered) and the student needs to pass the course separately from passing MATH 1530. Tim explained that the new coreq guidelines allow 2 levels of completion for the Math lab competencies: satisfied vs. completion. The

MATH 0030 completes the competencies. This prevents further competencies being needed for other disciplines.

A possible explanation for why students might be successful in MATH 1530 and not in their co-requisite math lab are that students have misconceptions from previous semesters that if they passed MATH 1530 they would not need to pass the separate lab. Thus they were not spending the necessary time in the lab to pass. Faculty advisors can help with this issue by stressing to students the need to pass both MATH 1530 and the lab as separate courses. If they fail the lab they must retake it even if they pass MATH 1530.

Math faculty is looking at options such as allowing students with low level ACT scores to take the MATH 0030 class alone before taking MATH 1530. Another option that is unlikely is to deny students a chance to pass MATH 1530 if they fail the attached 0030 math lab.

2.2 The Chair reports receipt of multiple emails from faculty during Winter Term.

A faculty member present as a guest at the meeting reports that the Winter Term is 26 days from start to finish so technical issues severely interfere. During the last Winter Term, a significant problem occurred in that Distance Education did not communicate planned maintenance. One issue involved eLearn being down for planned maintenance during an assignment submission deadline. Another issue involved Turn-It-In which is a web-based resource for plagiarism and grading. The site was also down during a due date in the course.

Another faculty member shared that they had requested for a course to be cloned, but this was not done. After the faculty member added original content, the course request was completed and all of the original information was dumped.

A third faculty member shares concern that the ability to clone their own courses will be lost.

Faculty Council members discussed possible explanations for problems in Distance Education, and concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness of increasing online course offerings prior to resolution of current issues.

The Executive Committee will discuss the ongoing problems with Dr. Bailey in order to plan ways to avoid such problems occurring in critical times in the future. Faculty Council feels a clear outline of roles and responsibilities of Distance Education vs. roles and responsibilities of faculty members teaching online courses will be helpful.

2.3 There was discrepancy among divisions with regard to advising over Winter Term; especially among students in select programs. Personal identification numbers (PINs) were instituted and communicated to students but students were instructed by some staff members in student services that they needed to contact faculty members rather than Deans during the winter break. Faculty members received texts and emails from students who could not be served effectively. This can be effectively remedied in future through clarification of the process for future terms.

One improvement that should help with student services is use of Completion Coaches to help advise readmit students. Due to communication issues and lessons learned through this process, it was suggested that leaving registration open longer might be another helpful strategy. Additional sessions of Advisor Trac training will also be helpful to faculty members.

3.1 The College Policy on Bullying/ Cyberbullying was discussed. Lawrence Gunderson, Melissa Sellers, and Benjamin Lawrence will serve on a subcommittee regarding development of recommendations for a policy on bullying and cyberbullying for the college.

Benjamin Lawrence made a motion to adjourn and Becca Rhea offered second. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM with time and date for the next meeting to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Dama Cooley, Secretary

Anthony Rafalowski, Chair