

Discovery Committee Minutes, February 15, 2012

Present: Barb White, Michele Holt-Shannon, Ihab Farag, Dennis Britton, David Richman, Jessica Fruchtman, Rosemary Caron, Wayne Fagerberg, Jing Wang, Steve Pugh, Tom Safford, Kathie Forbes, Sean Moore, Ihab Farag (Absent: Lisa MacFarlane, Bill Ross)

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Motion: Ihab Farag moved and Bill Ross seconded approval of the minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2011.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain. **Motion passed.**

The committee took the following action:

The following courses were approved in the categories/attributes listed:

COLA

THDA 444 – *Famous Dancers of the 20th Century* – FPA/INQ/WI

IA 555 – *Sustainable Human Development in Latin America* - ETS

MUSI 515 – *Music in World Cultures* - WC

ENGL 520 – *Masterworks of Short Fiction* – HUMA

IA 444 – *Philosophy & Politics of Nonviolent Action* – Proposed for SS/INQ/WI; confirmed for HUMA/INQ/WI.

After discussion, the DC determined that HUMA was the more appropriate category for this course. The faculty and college are in agreement.

The Committee discussed the following:

eUNH Course Quality: Barb sits on a committee with the IT group that is developing a certification course for best practices for teaching online. The DC discussed the benefits of setting a benchmark for online teaching, including enhancing a skill set in this area of teaching; and the pitfalls of a one-size-fits-all approach to online teaching methods, and any mandate to participate in the training. They also discussed whether there was interest in stipulating that when faculty are teaching DISCO courses online, they be required take the certification course.

It was suggested that since there are already issues with technology in the classroom - e-courses, face-to-face courses, labs – that greater support for training may be generated if all types of teaching with technology are included.

From a student perspective, having a standard for all online courses keeps students feeling as if they're all on a level playing field.

Draft Policy of Who teaches in INQ in Discovery: Without a stated policy, Discovery doesn't have anything to guide departments in who they select to teach INQ courses. As a result, there are people teaching INQ who don't understand what it means to be teaching INQ. Even if the policy seems to set a high bar, that doesn't mean there can't be review on a case-by-case basis. The draft policy will be edited based on today's comments, and sent to all for further discussion at the next DC meeting.

University Dialogue topic for 2012-13: Michele announced next year's dialogue topic, "Live Free or Die: A University Dialogue on Freedom & Responsibility."

INQ student outcomes: In preparing for the 5 year Discovery review, it would be great to have goals finalized and agreed upon in order to state where we are heading. These are broad program goals not wedded to a particular course, but to the program as a whole. For this review, we have agreed to heavily focus on INQ. David will edit the goals draft document based on today's comments and add a piece that speaks to imagination, and add a point about the exposure to the important questions in each of the disciplines. The DC will discuss further at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 1:30pm