

## **Discovery Committee Minutes, March 2, 2011**

**Present:** Lisa MacFarlane, Jeffry Diefendorf, Sharyn Potter, Michele Holt-Shannon, Bill Ross, Christina Caiazza, Heather Barber, Monica Chiu, Kathie Forbes, Wayne Fagerberg (Absent: Barb White, Stephen Pugh, Art Greenberg)

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 30, 2011**

**The committee took the following action:**

*The following courses were confirmed for Discovery in the category/attribute listed:*

### **COLA**

HIST 497S – Explorations in Historical Perspectives – HP

*The following courses were tabled pending further information:*

### **COLA**

GERM 524 – German Cinema – WI – Table review pending further information.

MCBS 658 – General Biochemistry – BS – Table review pending further information.

### **Transfer Courses**

Italy courses – UNHM – Kathie Forbes will speak with Mike Contarino about the possibility of putting forth a proposal asking for dispensation for this entire program to meet the WC requirement, rather than submit courses separately.

**The Committee discussed the following:**

*Proposals for the AY11 University Dialogue* – All proposals received are from COLA faculty. Deadline will be extended so as to allow for submissions from other colleges.

*What to do when suspecting a student is in distress* – Discussion of material that was provided including: Never fear intervening because of FERPA; Please don't make accommodations for students without knowing whether they are registered with Disability Services; UNH has a 90% retention rate against the 70% national retention rate but more students are withdrawing for emotional/medical reasons than ever before. Student affairs has a lot of data around this. Some reasons are financial, family hardship; 80% of medical withdrawals are due to mental/emotional issues. This seems to be around expectations that may or may not stem from financial hardship or demands. Students feel enormous pressure.

Student perspective – Students are here alone, without parents, sometime students look at faculty in a parent role. Students appreciate a faculty person reaching out. It is more helpful than hurtful.

It is increasingly common that the average undergrad degree takes more than 4 years.

Our students are for the most part taking 4 years. Students who are in prescribed programs tend to grad on time, liberal arts students can sometimes take longer.

Many institutions are not looking at the idea that the 4 year curriculum is not enough. Some schools want to shorten it. We need to be making it longer.

Abroad programs are costly, but for those students the only way they can go abroad is to integrate them with their program. Then when a student returns, helping them re-enter and re-adjust to life here is crucial.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.**