Discovery Committee Minutes, September 4, 2013

Present: Barb White, Amy Cunningham, Gretchen Bean, Stephanie Cheney, Barbaros Celikkol, Bill Ross, Dan Beller-McKenna, Sean Moore, Steve Pugh, Sandhya Shetty, Jing Wang, Wayne Fagerberg (Absent: William McKernan; Kathie Forbes)

Note: Missing Faculty Senate representation

Next meeting: Wednesday September 18, 2013

Approval of the Minutes - Minutes of the meeting of May 15 will be reviewed at the September 18 meeting.

The committee took the following action:

The following courses were reviewed, and/or confirmed in the categories/attributes listed:

CEPS

ESCI 501 – Intro to Oceanography – INQ (course already approved for PS; coming back for INQ designation)
Course is well-suited for Inquiry pilot model – larger lecture course with smaller breakout labs capped at 20-25. Barb noted that in anticipation of this course being reviewed by the DC this fall, the TA’s expected to teach in the course attended the CETL training in August.
Motion: Table review pending revision. Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain. Motion passed.

ESCI 502 – Where the Surf Meets the Turf – PS – Course approved.

COLA

(Literature and...series of courses) – Review for category only at this meeting. WI review will be at the meeting of 9/18/13.

ENGL 415A – Literature & the Law – SS
Additional SS theory and methodology needed. SS courses have to address methods of SS research and must be addressed in the course description. DC believes this course is better suited for HUMA category. Motion: Approval of course Vote: 0 Yes, 6 no, 1 abstain Motion denied. Course not approved

ENGL 415B – ...& Business – SS
Course has an explicit connection to theory but needs more of a connection to methods. Question of how it pertains to SS. Course description nicely explained theories, however there was no reference to methods and how to test the theories. Methods would need to be sufficiently addressed throughout the course. DC believes this course is better suited for HUMA category.
Motion: Approval of course Vote: 0 Yes, 6 no, 2 abstain Motion denied. Course not approved

ENGL 415C – ...& Medicine – BS
Course should have more reference to scientific method as well as more biological content. Course should cover some aspect of biology so the student comes away with some biology background. DC believes this course is better suited for HUMA category. Motion: Approval of course Vote: 0 Yes, 8 no Motion denied. Course not approved

ENGL 415E – ...& Cyberculture – ETS
Fits one of the criteria but not the other two (E/T/S). The course should fit 2 of the 3. There are connections to society but not as much to technology and environment. Committee looked over bullets on syllabus and concluded that more explicit introduction to various technologies is needed. DC believes this course is better suited for HUMA category. Motion: Approval of course Vote: 0 Yes, 7 No, 1 abstain Motion denied. Course not approved.
The following courses were not reviewed due to time constraints. The DC recommended that Barb White and Sandhya Shetty go back to ENGL and COLA and discuss the possibility of the ENGL 415 suite of courses being resubmitted for the HUMA category.

ENGL 415D - …& the Animal World – BS
ENGL 415F - …& the Psyche – SS
ENGL 415G - …& the Visual Arts – FPA
ENGL 415H - …& Religion – HUMA

The Committee discussed the following:

CETL/TA training – There is no stated policy for this. Question – should TAs for Inquiry pilots be required to retrain? Comment - students are still working on advance degrees so are not experts yet, therefore should take each time. Training is 6 hours, done in August and considered part of their salary. Considered a good experience in mentoring other TAs. Question of lab instructors – they may not be TAs but should they go through this training as well? Comment - UNHM has a very different culture with many very experienced adjuncts which makes them different than TAs, however they do teach labs. Faculty and lab instructors who have participated in the INQ training have reported that they benefitted from the training. In pilots we do currently have some ability to require training. INQ training could be possibly a stipulation for getting a course passed. Suggestion - leave it to department chair or faculty teaching the course to decide if they should get training. Barb will draft something in regard UNHM, and Steve has offered to help with the language.

Didn’t get to:

Parameters regarding TA lab grading

Brief update on summer course review

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Submitted by Alix Campbell