

Discovery Committee Minutes, September 26, 2012

Present: Barb White, Brian Chu, Alex Eichler, Rosemary Caron, Dan Beller-McKenna, Tom Safford, Ihab Farag, Kathie Forbes, Jing Wang, Michele Holt-Shannon, Steve Pugh, Lisa MacFarlane, Sean Moore, Wayne Fagerberg (Absent: Bill Ross)

Next meeting: Wednesday, OCTOBER 10, 2012

Motion: Ihab Farag moved and Tom Safford seconded, approval of the Minutes of the meeting of September 12, 2012.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. **Motion passed.**

The committee took the following action:

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

CEPS

MS 402 – *Nanoscience and Energy* – PS; Approved

COLA

POLT 444 – *Cruel and Unusual in the Federal System* – SS approved; INQ approved with stipulation that the Committee receive clarification regarding the INQ component; WI approved with stipulation that rewrites be required for some of the assignments, versus voluntary. (Letter will specify stipulations made by the Committee.)

JUST 530 – *Inside the Courtroom* – HUMA – **Motion:** Table review pending further information from the faculty person.

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

The Committee discussed the following:

Discovery Syllabi - Given the Student Senate request and the findings of the syllabi audits in DISCO and the Writing Center, the Committee discussed the possibility of strongly encouraging faculty to make clear statements re designations on DISCO course syllabi. Also discussed was the possibility of putting language in the course approval letters to this end, and directing faculty to view syllabi samples on the website. In order to capture courses already approved for DISCO, a letter could be sent out to faculty teaching approved courses. There was discussion as to whether there could/should be a short template that faculty could use, that could be sent out with the letter as well as posted on our site for their availability. WSBE is currently going through accreditation and working on their syllabi as part of this process. This is all part of the larger discussion regarding the meta-cognitive moment– when a student knows why they are being asked to do something, they learn better.

Discovery Courses Online - Can we please gather some information on teaching online courses and think about what guidelines we'd like to develop for Discovery courses online. Also, what our assessment strategy of these courses will be. The DC is either going to have to figure out a way to "make peace" with the short-term course, or put out a statement to colleges as to what is expected from Discovery short-term courses. In addition to the 5-year review, there may need to be a mechanism in place to encompass all that we are trying to assess. Prof Krasner did a report on his literature course taught this summer that VPAA MacFarlane will get a copy of for the DC.

INQ Requirement for Transfer Students - ASAC has asked that we lower the number of credits for transfer students regarding meeting the INQ requirement to 26 credits, limiting it to the first year transfer students only. This is not an unusual request, particularly considering that the INQ requirement was originally expected to be completed in the first year.

Meeting adjourned 1:30pm