

Faculty Senate Meeting 4/7/09

Move to accept the corrected minutes. One Correction: ISLO outcomes presented by Dave Milstone.

Minutes are unanimously accepted.

Report from the President

UMD 101 sessions seem to be going well. Mary Beckwith is still looking for one more volunteer to assist with Orientation. Please contact Mary Beckwith ASAP.

The Student Senate has been very concerned and the bookstore reps have been coming to department chairs and discussing textbook prices. The April 15th deadline for book orders is quite important since the students who are currently using the text can participate in the book buy back at 50% rather than pennies on the dollar. There is a true incentive for ordering the book early. Please think hard and long about the packages that come with the textbook. These tend to add cost and may not be used.

NEASC committee for Governance and Organization is putting together a survey to go out sometime in April. Please complete the survey once it is disseminated.

Next meeting will elect a new steering committee and the current nominations process is open. There are 19 open seats you can use self nominations or you can nominate someone you feel would make a good senator. The steering committee will have nominations and selection at the next meeting.

Magali Carrera: the Academic Advising survey is complete and will be distributed to the Deans, etc. Ellen Christian will present in May.

ISLO – Dick Panofsky

Last meeting comments were suggested. Definition of UMD Education Person. Last meeting the question was asked as to whether or not this is an unusual process. Information from other campuses initiatives were presented.

The goal of this statement is to generate something that can be published to demonstrate the goals and aspects of education that we seek to have our students achieve. This is a statement that will tend to evolve.

Paul Bacadayan: Motion to accept the ISLO statement as is. Paige Gibbs second.

Discussion:

The question is whether or not the meaning in this statement is assessable? Dick Panofsky responded that the statements may not be quantifiable but are assessable. Some of these will involve the co-curricular activities and demonstrated through. Alumni surveys will be useful in assessing whether or not we have achieved the goals of this statement. This statement may inspire and assist in the design of the assessment instruments. This statement asks the different elements to relate what they do to this outcome and then ask how do they do this? This can be the basis for assessment.

Where did the ISLO statement come from? The Gen Ed criteria from NEASC requires that the program ties to the University's definition of what an educated person from that University would be? What is the summation of the students experience at UMD? This statement will go into the NEASC report, and eventually in the catalog.

Is the statement redundant? The committee decided to expound the definition of critical thinking into the various components.

Educated Person definition should be able to resolve complex problems, but the definition states that the educated person should be able to integrate and apply but not resolve.

Why is the statement not writing more simply perhaps with bullets? This is written in narrative format because it demonstrates the interrelationships between these ideas and builds to a coherent whole.

Can a statement be added that changes the word solve or address complex problems? This will be taken by the committee.

Vote to accept the motion: 1 disagree, 2 abstentions, motion passes.

Computer Users Committee - Matt Sylvain

(The UCC report has been moved to the May meeting.)

Continued its efforts to work with CITS about available technology to the faculty. The committee has undertaken an inventory of services on campus available to faculty. The inventory has where is the service located, who can access it, if there is hardware available, etc. This information will be eventually given to CITS to create a database from so the faculty can simply search. Contact information will also be provided to hopefully allow the database to be kept current. The minutes from the Computer Users Committee are on the Faculty Senate website.

New Business

UMass System Technology Survey – Jen Riley

Strategic Technology across the University is currently running this survey to get a sense of what instructional technologies are being used across the 5 campuses. This survey may wait until next Fall. This information is useful for UMass online to see where the funding needs to be directed. This survey can also be used for the NEASC requirement to discuss educational technology.

Motion: The Faculty Senate endorse this survey with the caveat that it get done sooner rather than later. Unanimously supported.

Commencement Update – Dick Panofsky

Same split as last year, some format for name calling. There were issues lining up that are being addressed so the students get to the right place. ROTC Color Guard will probably be the same as last year. The issue around ROTC has not been discussed in the steering committee. The Provost and Chancellor will be sending a letter to invite the faculty. The colleges will still be required to select Marshals. The faculty will be sitting on stage again this year. There has been a lot of additional sound equipment purchased to improve the quality.

Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Unanimously passed.

Adjourned 4:33 PM