Minutes of Student Learning Enhancement Team meeting

Monday, January 26, 2009

3:30 p.m., Life Sciences B121


Those absent: Metg Amstutz, Joe Broder, Paul Chambers, Cheryl Dozier, Art Dunning, Denise Gardner, Loch Johnson, Pam Kleiber, David Knauft, Jerry Legge, Jean Martin-Williams, Connor McCarthy, Jere Morehead, Marisa Pagnattaro, Shannon Scott, Judy shaw, Fran Teague, Robin Tricoli

Rodney Mauricio called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23 meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Rodney called on Katy Bowers to lead the team in reviewing the 30 pre-proposals and putting them into one of eight categories: first-year, interdisciplinary studies, engaged learning, learning skills, academic resources, research, global/cultural studies, technology, and academic themes.

Before the team began its work, Rodney asked that we avoid blending individual proposals within a group at this point. Bob Boehmer pointed out that some pre-proposals might need their own group.

There was also a discussion about some of the categories, and minor changes were made that resulted in the eight categories referenced above.

Katy presented each pre-proposal, asking the team for its input on which category was appropriate. The result of this work is attached to the minutes.

Rodney explained that now is the time for the team to reflect and determine if there are “gaps” in the proposals in terms of the omission of key ideas that have been discussed previously on campus but that were not submitted as pre-proposals. For example, the pre-proposals on writing are narrowly focused when compared to the writing plan developed by the task force on writing. Fran Teague might want to consider submitting a plan at this time.

Irwin Bernstein asked for clarification: Should we consider developing a broader writing proposal? There was some consensus that we should. Also, the idea of a broader global education proposal was offered as another suggestion, and Rodney suggested that Judy Shaw might want to submit a proposal.

Katy stated that we should wait to ask team members to develop additional proposals until we have narrowed the field of the proposals we have.

Paige Carmichael asked if we have time to ask someone outside the team to submit a pre-proposal if we determine there is a gap. She mentioned a topic having to do with diversity as an example. There was agreement that it is not too late.

David Lee emphasized that finding the best ideas is not a competition. We shouldn’t worry about adapting the process as we go along in order to come up with good proposals.
Bob said that the team has the prerogative to combine, discard, and expand ideas submitted to us. We can also write our own plan(s).

Irwin said that we should consider the process we have used so far as brain-storming. We are working on developing good ideas into full plans.

Rodney added that we may ask people on campus with certain expertise to help us evaluate particular proposals at some point.

Rodney then asked for the team to establish two subcommittees. The first will be a subcommittee that would ensure a hearing for worthy proposals that are not selected. Bob, Connor McCarthy, and Barb White agreed to serve. Connor, who was absent, was nominated by Katy. This group will be asked to begin working at a later time.

The second subcommittee is one whose work will be to determine what the proposals that are forwarded to the Leadership Team should look like. Allan Aycock and Jan Wheeler will work on this and may ask others to help them.

The last item of business was to plan for the February 4 forum. It was agreed that Katy and Luke Naeher will moderate the discussion of pre-proposals following an introduction of the Student Learning Initiative process by Rodney.

Irwin suggested that one question we might ask forum attendees is: Have we missed any student learning initiative “themes?” Others might be: What are the merits of the themes we do have? What are the merits of the corresponding pre-proposals?

Jan will provide a handout for forum attendees. It will list the name of each pre-proposal and a 35 word description of the student learning initiative written by the author. The proposals will appear in the groupings that we determined during the first part of the meeting.

Rodney asked Jan if one more notice about the forum could be sent out via archnews on February 2. Jan will ask Sharron Hannon to do this.

Rodney adjourned the meeting at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Wheeler