

Frost School Council Minutes

April 12, 2011

HUB 123

3:30-5:00

Present: Christian Roberson (Chair), Nancy Betchart, Terri Dautcher, John Donovan, Gail Carr, Shawn Hackshaw, Ellen Murphy, Eun-Ho Yeo, James Whiting, David Zehr.

Unable to attend: Trent, Boggess, Mardie Burckes-Miller, Mary Ann McGarry, Anastasia Deflumeri (student), Melissa Furbish (student), Dan Moore, Mark Okrant, Frances Williams

Scribe: Nancy Betchart

Acceptance of March 2012 minutes.

Review of the retreat: Summary of 'takeaways'

- Where are we and where do we go from here?
- Question re enlarging our undergrad population to 5000 undergrads – when and how? (James Whiting mentioned that there are 52,000 undergrads online at Liberty University – many military and that PSU might consider this population if we develop any 100% online programs)
- Some surprised that online education and academic technology are not specifically part of strategic planning. Surprised that there was not more strategic direction from the university leadership about where we are going. Strategic plan will be revised next year and we need to include statements re distance ed and its role.
- A note that Frost School seemed to be a strategic initiative that came from Administration, rather than arising from the faculty. Now that online education is taking off, faculty need to be more involved with what they need – want with regard to academic technology and online education.
- Should the function(s) of the Frost School Council evolve and what should it be called?
- Would make sense to have an Academic Technologies and Distance Education Committee.
- Christian – ATAG – Academic Technology Advisory Group is not a faculty governance committee – it is co-chaired by Steve Campbell and David Berona. Mostly this committee provides and updates and reports from MIS. Does ATAG make recommendations about adoption of learning technologies?
- Few faculty out of 5 who show up each month.
- Currently IT reports to Steve Campbell/Steve Taksar, while LTOE reports up to Julie Bernier.
- Terri, Steve Campbell should be a part of the discussions regarding how to incorporate a better faculty voice in decisions affecting them.
- Julie thought that we would use the retreat to discuss where we want to be in 5 or 10 years with regard to distance learning. We didn't really get there during the retreat.
- There are other issues that need addressing with regard to online education, e.g., having faculty who are in other states. As we think where we want to be strategically, we need to consider costs.
- Admissions and or enrollment mgmt should be involved in discussions about expanding distance.

- We still don't have any totally online programs.
- David, it would be easier to offer some programs online if we took curriculum reform seriously.

Question: Could we have a faculty forum to discuss a transformation of Frost School Council or could we have a meeting during Faculty Week and the future of distance education.

- If a faculty committee brings forth priorities, then administrators will listen. If the Frost School Council is revised in function and membership to focus on academic technology and online education, faculty would have more voice and academic technology and online education may have more direction. Hope to foster, better communication among various administrators (e.g., ATAG, LTOE, etc.)
- A revised council could recommend an update to the CIO after each meeting and could recommend action items– influence the prioritization and implementation of academic technologies faculty need.

Recommendations:

Roles and responsibilities of a new council will be drafted by Christian, Terri and Nancy and brought back to Frost School Council. They will then be shared in a faculty forum/meeting during faculty week.

Additional work for future: Draft a revised cost structure model for online education for consideration

Next meeting. May 10th, 3:30, HUB 123

Meeting adjourned at 5:00.