

University Senate

Minutes of the meeting

April 26, 2013

Members Present: Brittany Abraham, Dina Berger, Timothy Classen, Shawna Cooper-Gibson, Cass Coughlin, Leanne Cribbs, Mary Dominiak, Lisa Gillespie Tyler Hough, Pamela Johnson, Claudio Katz, Thomas Kelly, Vicki Keough, Muhammed Rizwan Khan, Teri Kilbane, Joyce Knight, Sarah McDowell, Niamh McGuigan, Erin Moriarty, Bren Murphy, Alice Perlin, Christopher Peterson, Matthew Razek, Noah Sobe, Anne Sutter, Mary Van Houten, David Yellen

Ex-Officio Members Present: John Pelissero

Members Absent: Alanah Fitch Alice Perlin, Christopher Peterson, Matthew Razek, Noah Sobe,

Guests: Ariana Lewis,

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by the chair

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH**

Minutes were approved as amended with 2 abstentions

**TASK FORCE ON DIVERSITY REPORT**

Dr. Darryl Wheeler reported on the task force on diversity. He stated that the task force had a very limited time to look at existing data and synthesize the results. The task force looked at diversity across the university including students and faculty & staff. All groups surveyed show some periods of growth except African American students at the undergraduate level, which showed a small but steady decline in numbers. Growth for African Americans was indicated among student pursuing the Master's degree.

Dr. Wheeler stated that he felt that it was premature to make specific recommendations because of the following reasons; 1) The short amount of time that the committee convened which was about three months 2) Data on diversity is not housed in a central location and locating such data took most of the time allotted 3) The committee was not able to articulated what the "problem is". Dr. Wheeler recommended that that diversity data collection be centralized and that it included both quantitative and qualitative study. He also recommended that the reporting be mandated with regular updates.

The floor was open for questions.

-Dr. Katz recommended that there be some central office or place for the data to be stored and updated. He suggested an internal study be done at Loyola. Dr. Katz also stated that the most glaring issue was recruiting and retaining African American students.

- Brittany Abraham raised the point that data is important but climate is additionally important.
- Lisa Gillespie raised the issue that numbers were important and we have to look at proportion that we are aiming for.
- David Yellen stated that the law school grew the numbers of African American students. He stated it was mentoring and targeting African American students that made the difference. Dr. Katz asked what the effort was that brought in more students into the law school. Dr. Yellen replied that the Law School enlisted the aid of their alumni, faculty and staff. He also said that he took the lead in a lot of the recruitment.
- Matthew Rezek asked about current university efforts. Dr. Wheeler responded that the committee was not yet able to be able to look at this more deeply.
- Terry Kilbane asked the question about where we want to go with diversity.

## **MOTIONS**

A motion was introduced to ask the provost to direct Institutional research or an appropriate body to help provide us with diversity data.

Motion-Claudio Katz

Second- Terry Kilbane

Motion carried: Unanimously

A motion was introduced to ask the provost to fund an outside consultant to conduct a Loyola University Diversity study.

Motion-Claudio Katz

Second- Joyce Knight

Motion carried: Unanimously

## **REPORTS**

### **Budget & Strategy Committee Report:**

Tim Classen's report on was reviewed and amended.

A motion was made to send the report on to the provost's office as amended.

Motion-Claudio Katz

Second- Brittany Abraham

Motion carried: Unanimously

### **On line learning/distance learning Report:**

Dr. D'Agostino and Dr. Scheidenhelm presented on online learning. The first on line class was offered in 1999. In 2002, a few other departments offered online courses. During the academic year 2010-11, a University wide effort was made. The first on-line committee was brought together. As themes emerged, concerns did as well. The concern that our mission was still clear in our online courses was brought to the forefront. In weighing the value of on-line courses, a few themes emerged. On line courses would 1) Help current students complete their degree in 4 years. 2) Expand graduate/professional programs and 3) Reach visiting and non-degree students.

Dr. D'Agostino showed the senate the updated online learning webpage. She stated that during Spring term 2013, there were 130 courses with 175 sections offered online and during summer 2013, 126 courses with 153 sections will be offered. Some strategies and challenges to online learning are 1) policies 2) Learning environment 3) Training and support for students and faculty 4) Marketing educational offerings 5) Quality assurance and 6. Assessing that learning outcomes are the same as offered in face to face classes.

Terry Kilbane discussed her report on Online and Adult Education for the Senate.

The questions that her report raised addressed the concern about the validity of online learning. Some specific themes she addressed were 1. What is the balance between need and demand vs. identity? What is the balance between classroom quality and experience and online courses? Is there a disconnect between the School of Continuing & Professional Studies and the College of Arts & Sciences departments. What kind of courses can be taught? When will online courses be expected to be offered in the departments? What are standards for evaluation, assessment, and policies for contact hours and hybrid courses? Should there be an office on online learning? How many credits should students be allowed to take online? What incentives are there for faculty, including course reduction in order to develop online courses?

Discussion ensued about cheating and resolutions and MOOC (massive open online course).

#### **Environmental sustainability report**

Dr. Aaron Durnbaugh, director, distributed the draft on Sustainability and Climate plan for the Senate to review.

#### **Faculty and Staff Affairs report:**

Dr. Terry Kilbane will work with her subcommittee on the Faculty Assessment Tool over the summer and will bring results to the Senate for review.

#### **CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

Dr. Katz asked subcommittees to meet over the summer.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded, and was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Joyce D. Knight  
Secretary, University Senate