

## **Faculty Senate Agenda (Gen Ed Meeting)**

November 8, 2016

Senate Chambers: Holloway Hall 119

<http://www.salisbury.edu/campusgov/facsenate/>

Senators Present: Stephen Adams, Anita Brown, Thomas Calo, Thomas Cawthern (Webmaster), Randall Cone, Douglas DeWitt, Chrys Egan (Secretary), Stephen Ford (President), Samuel Geleta (Vice President), Kurt Ludwick, John Nieves, James Parrigin, David Rieck, Bart Talbert, Brent Zaprowski

Quorum: 15/19 Present

Call to Order: Faculty Senate President Stephen Ford, 3:30 p.m.

### 1. Unfinished/Continuing Business

- a. Faculty Feedback on the Proposed General Education Model (Dr. James King)
  - i. Overview of Concerns - Full documents are being organized and will be available at a later time.

#### Concerns:

- Model clarification and gaps
- First Year Experience for transfers and freshmen
- Signature Work as gen ed. or major
- Themed Integrated experience
- Administration needs to address as soon as possible, especially job security
- Decision making, timeline, procedures
- Faculty workload, time investment, team teaching, interdisciplinary courses
- Concern over what is lost as new courses added
- Student learning outcomes, assessment
- Who would own FYE, SW, and TI courses?
- Sequences of courses

#### Questions:

- Who decides COMAR? Should we go over minimum?
- How many students are transfers? Which courses do they transfer? AP? AA degree?
- When we will see revisions and vote?
- How will transition work?
- How will new courses be developed?
- How will we manage workload and salary?
- How will we determine what courses meet criteria?
- How to adapt online courses and distance campuses?
- How to help departments market their programs?
- Will there be funding and support?

#### Discussion:

- Seems like there were more concerns and questions than ideas. Shawn McEntee stated that the notes were divided into: positives, concerns, and questions. The

concerns and questions were more prevalent at this point until more is known about these details.

- Estimates of faculty attendance for the three open meetings were 60+ Tuesday; 40+ Wednesday; and 65+ Friday. The uncertainty stems from some faculty not signing in and others attending more than one meeting
- Tom Boudreau proposed a different model and offered to share it. President Ford indicated that this meeting was to learn feedback from the faculty who attended the forums. Boudreau was assured that his model has been added to Gen Ed Steering Committee documents and will be carefully reviewed by them.
- Discussion over how to address these questions and concerns
- Question over where Signature Work fits
- Concern over students who do not know what their major is or know all the majors we offer
- Focus on what is best for our students, not particular faculty interests
- SGA President Julia Howell asks a series of questions: Will structure of new courses be different? King indicated that the course structures are different as are the learning outcomes. Are there going to be new courses added? King indicated that there would be courses designed to meet the new goals and outcomes. Will students be able to comment on what they learned from a course? King indicated that there would be that opportunity.
- Understandable that people would be concerned about their jobs. Model not clear that FYE would apply to all departments. Administration needs to assure us.
- Do not put all of this on UCC. We need a clear structure and committee to review these classes. Start at department level.
- Where in the working groups will removals be explained: History, English, and Science? We need justification and rationale.
- In forums, it was hard for some people and departments to raise their voices, with some programs dominating.
- What is the override reason for Gen Ed change? From the administration? Is no change an option? We were told yes. But administration seems to indicate that change is happening. King refers to the faculty surveys on the gap of what we believe students are receiving in Gen Ed. The drive stems from the faculty data. We have high expectations for our students but do not feel like we are meeting those goals.
- Yet there is a lot of faculty resistance about the model.
- FYE allows us to capture all students to integrate into the SU environment. Question about students with AA degree. AA degree requires 30-32 Gen Ed so we can require additional Gen Ed. There is no notion of what that course is but we are being asked to support it.
- We need a clear answer as to why we are changing. Previously Dean Olmstead indicated that it is for better outcomes for our students, better marketing for SU, Gen Ed needs to be reviewed, and other reasons.
- King shares a document on Gen Ed reform and why it is necessary. This document aligns with what we are saying now but is 16 years old from 2000. We have made no progress during this time. We are stuck.

- Comments on frustration over supporting change but it never happens. Report that the 2000 plan included a Freshman Seminar that administration cut because it was too expensive. Reply that in that case it was an add-on with those additional associated costs and not the same as this model which has a more integrated structure.
- Suggestion to combine FYE and TI into one course.
- Remember that we can add a few more Gen Ed hours.
- Signature Work seems to be a Major Capstone that we could require but not as Gen Ed so that we might add a course back in. Melissa Boog says that the plan was questioned without giving the Capstone credits.
- We need to be 21<sup>st</sup> Century. New faculty who were recently students note that our Gen Ed structure is out of date.
- These changes are not about the people in this room, but those who come later. The goal needs to be to attract better students and faculty.
- President Ford suggests that we need a big picture view of this process. It seems natural that when faced with something new, something that changes the way things have been done, that we first see its faults, but then we must move on to a finding solutions stage, which is where we are right now. He asked how many faculty have been involved with the entire Gen Ed process to date and the response was that around 60 people have been involved, the majority being faculty across a broad range of disciplines/departments. He was then assured by Dr. King that a call would go out from the Steering Committee to all faculty to join the newly formed working groups that are geared to find solutions.

## ii. Action Plan Moving Forward

### New Working Groups

- First Year Experience
- Themed Integrative Courses
- Professional Programs and Majors (including Signature Work)
- Administration and Funding
- Assessment

## 2. Adjournment 5:00 p.m.