

SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DIVISION MEETING  
November 1, 2005

Attendance attached.

Meeting began with congratulations from Dr. Yoder to the faculty for the completion of the 5 year outcomes assessment plans. Later there will be strategic planning that will be due December 9 and she will inform faculty of the format required. A handout will come in mailboxes.

Happy November birthday to Jeff Carlisle and Peggy Jordan. Cake provided by Dr. Yoder is available in the division office.

Committee Reports

Academic Assessment Committee reported by Cecelia Yoder and Susan Tabor. The committee is working on brochures for students and faculty. The student brochure will be out first.

ADA Support Services Committee reported by Trish Bilcik. The meeting was informative and materials were distributed to the committee. The accommodations are to be reasonable. Students don't seem to be sending in the requests to ADA as often but bringing their own and finding often they don't need extra help. Some faculty are getting requests.

Benefits Committee has been formed and meets tomorrow at 1:30 for the first time. Jane Carney is on the committee representing the Faculty Association. If you have suggestions for this committee please email Jane before tomorrow afternoon. This committee has been disbanded for three years and faculty has been requesting it be resumed. One of the issues expressed was help with insurance payments upon retirement and also the possibility of an early buyout. Jane Carney stated that she understood suggestions regarding insurance payment assistant would go through the budget building process and to Dr. Sechrist and that another buyout probably would not be offered until the last one is paid off.

Curriculum Committee reported by Cecelia Yoder that there was some difficulty but the changes for Child Development, History and Political Science were approved.

Disabilities Accommodation reported by Thomas Jones. You are asked to provide assistance to your students but not until the official request has been made. Ask your student to check for documentation if his/her request for accommodation has not been made to the faculty member. Faculty does a good job with accommodations but information and communication is not always received.

Entry Level Assessment by Ray McCullar. Committee is developing a math compass test to identify students who should be in these classes.

Faculty Development Committee: Susan Tabor reports the committee is considering the way merit pay is determined by looking at what some other states are doing. They are working on a grid so people have more opportunities for merit pay.

Gen Ed Committee: Jeff Carlisle reported the committee listened to a presentation of assessment of competency. The English and Humanities Departments will collect approximately 600 student essays during the last two weeks of the Spring semester and judge competencies based on a rubric. Two judges will read each essay and if split in their decision then a third judge will serve as tie-breaker. The goal is to have 70% get a yes rating on  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the sections on the rubric. The sections are:

1. Used Standard American English
2. Unity-support for thesis statement, etc.
3. Coherence
4. Organization

The committee will receive a report on this by July, 2006. A survey was distributed earlier to faculty on Global Ed competencies and 70% of faculty reported they have this component included in their general education courses.

Presidential Advisory Council: Mendy Bar asked if you have any concerns or questions for this committee then direct them to her or to Paige Landreth in the President's office.

It was suggested that we have too many committees. Why do we have two committees on disabilities? Dr. Yoder will check on the necessity of two different committees.

The Student Learning Council includes Gen Ed, Outcomes Assessment, Faculty Development all in another effort to share information.

Retention Committee: Reported by Dana Glencross. Items were presented as ways of keeping students:

Advisement                      Standing committees                      Adjuncts advising  
Faculty training                      Course placement                      Team teaching  
Early alert-contact students  
Financial aid progress/batch processing/informing students  
Clean up MineOnLine  
Greater access to student records  
Student employment plan – serious attempt to have students get  
jobs

Dr. Yoder asked that for future division meetings committee reports be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting so there would be more time to discuss other issues.

Jane Carney reported she's attending a meeting of the Higher Regents on Saturday and they are focusing on a new degree plan. Many students have 77 hours or more here and efforts should be made to bring them back for degrees.

Student Development: Marcelene Rogers reported that students are being enrolled and declaring majors and offered thanks to the faculty for their assistance.

The SIs have been distributed and Dr. Perry has asked that before you leave your classroom each faculty member write on the board the synonym for the section and ask the students to be sure and write this number in and darken the spaces also in the area indicated.

Our division Thanksgiving potluck meal will be Thursday, November 17. Mendy Barr has agreed once again to host this event and Dana Glencross will help with door prizes. Dr. Yoder will provide the turkey and a signup sheet for additional items will be available in the division office.

Dr. Yoder asked for volunteers to help with decorating the division office with the Christmas theme and entering the campus-wide competition.

Dr. Yoder mentioned many changes might soon be taking place with divisions perhaps being split, Digital Portal Initiative coming, as well as other suggested changes. This discussion will be continued.

Safety Training for this quarter is due by the end of December. The graduate survey also is due the end of December. Extra questions due to Dr. Perry by November 21. One initiative is to send surveys with Christmas cards. The signing will be determined by faculty. These would be due to Dr. Perry on November 28.

Dr. Sechrist will present a WOW session on November 8. It is in Library 407 and titled "Seven Lessons of Leadership." Everyone is invited. Dr. Yoder is also presenting a WOW session this Thursday on "Alternative and Cooperative testing."

Wanda Roepke  
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