

## Representative Faculty Senate Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 – 1:45 PM

### Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Sixty-one (61) representative senators, faculty, librarians, administrators and guests in virtual and in-person attendance

**Guest:** Dustin Kidd, Director of General Education

1. **Call to Order:** Shohreh Amini at 1:52PM
2. **Approval of RFS minutes:** Thursday, November 9, 2023: Approved
3. **Guest:** Dr. Dustin Kidd, Director of General Education- Update on Ged Ed Review/Reform:
  - a. Introduction of Dustin Kidd – update of the gen ed review; letting the committees do their work right now, not much to update
  - b. Meeting with all the colleges individually and have most completed
  - c. Continuing to look for feedback from colleagues and students as data gather continues; constantly updating task force report as we move forward; committee consists of 27 members across the university; this is a lot of people to manage and not enough to help; all 27 people have been divided up into 3 committees – macro level, metro level, micro level committees that are looking at the big picture on where we are, and drilling down on tasks; making sure there are policies on the books and they reflect what they are doing
  - e. The state requires that we have a general education program but more importantly Temple wants it

Question: 1000 level courses – is there course map for this?  
Response: Not a definitive answer – but working towards this (still much work to do)

Question: Is there consideration for renaming the program?  
Response: There is consideration for this, it is an open question,

continuing to work with marketing on options (i.e. diamond, owls, keystone, etc.)

Question: Are you getting feedback from adjuncts and are any on the committee?

Response: There are no adjuncts on the committee, per provost the taskforce is made up of full time faculty, but there is feedback from adjuncts

Question: Can only full time faculty teach Gen Ed?

Response: No, there are several adjunct faculty teaching Gen Ed

Question: Role languages play in the discussions, and how things are going in bringing the languages into general education

Response: (gave background on languages) – working on the proposals and will bring everything together; courses are well developed, and will be good disciplines for the students

Question (from Dustin to group): what is the advantage of having a gen ed program?

Response: Foundation skill building; prepares students for college courses; creates well rounded students

Response: Being able to think outside the box is so important and gen ed helps with this

Response: Introduction to the ideas around disciplines, with RCM bolsters enrollment and revenues

Response: (Dustin) please keep voicing concerns about RCM and bring curriculum concerns

Question: Do we separate gen ed courses if we have the same categories that can be counted towards traditional gen ed courses.

Do we need a separate roster of gen ed courses

Response: Inviting the departments to propose those courses and seeing where they fit

Comment: With 1000 level courses that are brought in, they should look at their certification calendar, pay attention to how burdensome recertification is, and try to reduce

Response (Dustin): Agree and working on that as the assessment burden has gotten bigger for all of us - we are aware of this

Comment: Intro courses help with critical thinking and make it less about content

Comment (Dustin): Kudos to Mike Bognanno on having great

standardization of 1000 level courses

Question (Dustin): What other concerns do you have?

Response: There are going to be winners and losers – there needs to be a plan for how the budgetary consequences are going to be dealt with

Response (Dustin) – RCM, course size, and enrollment are a big part of what we are addressing

Question: How are on line gen ed courses certified

Response: They are reviewed and approved once; making sure we are good and set with teaching on line asynchronous as a strong modality

Question: Concern over asynchronous delivery for student engagement

Response: Dustin loves it, as it brings strong engagement with the students

Question: How to safe guard against cheating

Response: Many ways to safeguard against this

Question: Ways to define critical thinking within each college differently

Response: Still need to find ways to do this in a general education program

Question: When will this process be complete?

Response: 4 year process and looking for ways to reduce this

Question: We need to get course sizes down in gen ed, particularly with writing intensives

Comment: Some colleges are 56 students to 1 faculty. We should be hiring more faculty

Close of Dustin Kidd session – thank you for your time and input

#### 4. **President's Report:** Shohreh Amini

a. President's search update - we have several applicants but limited diversity, hoping that will approve; hoping to have a small group of faculty meet the finalists.

b. Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting at 4:00pm today; the process of getting a faculty member at each BOT meeting is moving forward and we are hoping to get that done; need to get faculty in the room for this meeting, adjuncts will be included

- c. Starting faculty forum meeting with next RFS meeting– Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Topic will be on finances, faculty hire, student enrollment, but generally finances; we will bring in administrators and review our findings; these are faculty run sessions and are full senates
- d. Jen Wood invited to an FSSC meeting, she hasn't responded yet
- e. Benefits for transportation for faculty with Septa; Key advantage where you sign up; TAUP has not gotten a response from administration (Jeff Doshna), hoping to make some progress on this

**5. Vice President's Report:** Mike Bognanno

- a. Committee vacancies has increased due to current numbers and terms expiring, please continue to promote within your colleagues; review of committee vacancies (see document); we are looking to improve faculty governance, and we need faculty engagement to make this happen

**6. Old Business:** N/A

**7. New Business:**

- a. Michael Schirmer – first generation student task force is being organized with him and many colleagues in Fox; this is going university wide. Looking to get all colleges involved, and this involves faculty & staff

**8. Adjournment:** motion & approved: 3:05pm

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 26, 2024 – 1:45 pm. IDEAL, Tuttleman Learning Center, 1809 N. 13th Street and via Zoom