Minutes of the Faculty Council on Academic Affairs
April 5, 2007

Present: Barbara Bales, Lawrence Berlin, Vicki Byard, Lidia Filus, Harry Hild, Effie Kritikos, Emmanuel Nyadroh, Steve Riess, Allen Shub, Joaquin Villegas

Absent: Ana Gil-Garcia, Bradley Greenburg, Brett Stockdill

Ex-Officio: Provost Lawrence Frank

Guests: Audrey Reynolds, Kimberly Sanborn

Chair Hild called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

   Byard (Bales 2nd) moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2007. The motion was approved.

2. Report from the Provost

   Provost Frank discussed the elimination the reading portion of the English competency exam beginning with the new academic year. The change is supported by the coordinator of Reading Development, Linda Chenault, and the Dean of Academic Development, Murrell Duster. Provost Frank also endorses it. Bales (Berlin 2nd) moved that FCAA recommend the elimination of the reading potion of the ECE exam to be put into place at the discretion of the Provost**.** The motion was approved unanimously.

   Provost Frank informed FCAA that President Hahs has been busy with the University Statement of Values with the MELD group. The second draft is online and comments are encouraged.

   Hild added that the revised priorities for 2009-2013 are available. Members should send responses, especially since the University Budget Council will look at the comments.

3. Report from the Curriculum Committee

Bales reported that the Curriculum Committee moved for approval of the following courses:

- BIO 100 – Introduction to Biology (course number change and catalog description change)
- BIO 104 – The Changing Natural Environment (course number change)
- MATH 165 – Finite Mathematics (credit hour change)
- TED-MLED 301 – Curriculum and Instruction in the Middle School (new program and new course)

The FCAA members approved all motions.

4. Special Guests – Audrey Reynolds
Kim Sanborn

Audrey Reynolds spoke about the Writing Intensive Task Force. She stated that there has been more communication within the College of Arts and Sciences about the proposed requirement of advanced writing courses. Reynolds met with the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Affairs Committee, the dean of the College of Business and Management, and will meet with the dean of the College of Education this afternoon.

Two general issues have come up in trying to organize this (1) trying to make the requirement faculty-friendly, and (2) trying to make the requirement student-friendly. The faculty's fear is that we have a lot of ESL students. They are nervous about including writing instruction within their courses. There has to be a faculty advisory body. Reynolds suggested that the current task force become the advisory group for starters because they have been working well together. Furthermore, she recommends that a coordinator work with the department and faculty to provide resources.

The second faculty-friendly effort is the choice of whether to create new courses or adapt old courses to the new requirement. If any department cannot make arrangements for this, they can work with another department.

The students will be notified of the new requirement by a general statement in the catalogue advising them to go to their departments for specifics. The Board of Governors and the University Without Walls have been notified about the requirement. The University must also consider support services involving the Writing Lab, the Learning Center, literacy courses, and the Reading Lab.

Another issue is the English Placement Test. The writing prompt needs to be changed, and we get irregular results with the present test. More freshmen are judged to need remedial reading than writing. If the English Competency Exam is phased out, a lot more data gathering will be necessary to see what happens to students as they advance towards their degree.

Discussion also took place regarding the English Placement Exam.

Kim Sanborn is the director for the McNair Scholars Program. She described the program.

Bales (Nyadroh 2nd) moved for approval of NEIU 303, Preparing for Graduate Study, pending the change in the statement of the grade policy in the syllabus and for McNair courses to retain their NEIU prefix. The motion was approved unanimously.

Hild noted that Kim Sanborn has only to go to the FCAA with curriculum changes or proposals since the McNair Scholars Program is outside the colleges.

5. Adjournment

Bales (Nyadroh 2nd) moved for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted

Effie Kritikos
Secretary