

Committee Meeting Minutes
Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Faculty Senate

November 5, 2014, 8:00 AM
History Department Seminar Room, TLC 3205

Meeting started at 8:02 AM

Attendance

Chair Nadya Williams (History)

Member Cathi Jenks (Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment)
 Heather Mbaye (Political Science)
 Micheal Crafton (Academic Affairs)
 Randahl Morris (Mass Communications)
 Amy Farmer (Nursing)
 Angela Pashia (Library)
 Heather Vinson (Art)

Guest Elizabeth Kramer (Senate Chair)
 Debra MacComb (English, QEP)

- A. Approval of October meeting minutes
- B. Discussion continued about revising Core Area B in order to comply with SACS and our new QEP on Writing.

Debra provided an updated of the October Senate discussion and approval of Plan B for Area B. Gen. Ed. Council of the BOR has officially rejected Plan A for core Area B, which involved creating a new ENGL 1101 Lab course. Since this proposal is now officially off the table, Debra has contacted department chairs in core area B to ask where they see their courses fit in the new area B.

Micheal noted that any Learning Outcomes changes from the current (aka “old”) area B to align it with the QEP will probably have to be run through the BOR Gen Ed Council, so we should plan to have those ready for review at the Council’s February meeting.

Discussion about calling a meeting of chairs relevant to Area B, and involving anyone else who want to join area B, so they can propose courses for the new B1 and B2, and also discuss their ideas for the new Learning Outcomes for this area – Micheal mentioned possible concern at the BOR level about the new B2 outcome, so discussion ensued of different options, and consensus reached on Heather M.’s proposal that instead of proposing new language to the Senate now about B2 Learning Outcome, it would be best to run the different options by the chairs in core area B.

Heather V. mentioned that some departments may want to rethink courses in current area B, since it is now switching from oral to written emphasis. Elizabeth concurred, and noted that some current B2 courses may well end up fitting better in the new B1.

Randahl asked why the QEP outcome had to be housed chiefly in Area B, and why it could not simply be an overlay to the Core (a la Global Overlay, for instance). Discussion ensued about the purpose of Area B to serve as the Core's center for Institutional Priorities. Since Institutional Priorities shift every 5-10 years, Area B is likely to change over time, and that is what is happening now.

Randahl recommended putting together a communication campaign re: new area B and most common concerns of faculty about it. Town hall meetings with specifically designated topics for discussion could work well.

Debra pointed out UWrite as an example of how well integrating writing in the Core courses has worked in a programme already in existence here on campus.

Micheal wondered if we should think about a Plan C for Core Area B, if the current proposal (Plan B) would not get passed through the BOR in time. Could the current (old) area B outcomes remain as they are, and maybe writing would simply be incorporated into them? Debra responded that because the QEP specifically mentions English writing, the new B1 Learning Outcome must stand.

Committee agreed on the following tentative schedule of meetings to involve interested parties in the discussion of the new Area B:

Debra will contact department chairs to schedule a meeting before Thanksgiving Break, if possible.

Nadya will schedule Town Halls for all faculty in January. Topics for discussion to be coordinated by the group.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05am.