Committee on the Improvement of Undergraduate Education  
February 6, 2015  
(14-15, #3)  

APPROVED  

Members present: Jason Hanna (LAS); Ed Klonoski, Acting Associate Vice Provost (for Birberick); Mike Konen (LAS); Brian Mackie (BUS); Linda Matuszewski (UCC/BUS); Victor Ryzhov (LAS)  

Members absent: J.D. Bowers (Associate Vice Provost for Honors) Karen Brandt (HHS); Sheryl Honig (EDU); Beth McGowan (ULIB);  

Others: Jeanne Ratfield, (Administrative Assistant to Vice Provost) Recorder.  

I. Adoption of Agenda  

A motion was made by M. Konen, seconded by L. Matuszewski to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.  

II. Old Business  

First order of business was the David Raymond grant application selection. Only one application was received. Hanna indicated that they had a couple options on how to proceed. After a brief discussion it was decided to evaluate the application that was received. A motion was made by L. Matuszewski, seconded by V. Ryzhov to award the David Raymond grant award to Jessica Reyman, Department of English. Motion passed: 4 in favor, 1 abstention.  

Notification will be sent to Professor Reyman and have her select a date when she wants to make her presentation. The committee also wants to extend an invitation to Mrs. David Raymond to attend if she is available.  

The next order of business was the procedures for the EUIA/EUTA awards. The deadline is February 16, 2015. Those packets will be placed on the Blackboard site and evaluated by each committee member with approximately two weeks for review. Each committee member will submit their evaluations to the Vice Provost's office to have the evaluations summarized. That information will be presented at the March 2 meeting where the selection of recipients will be made.
There was discussion about the distribution of the award announcements. It was suggested that next year, in addition to the NIU Today announcement, notification of chairs and deans, that the Student Association be notified as well.

There was a brief discussion regarding a concern voiced by a department chair that dealt with Prompt 1, Box 3 and the requirement that the student representative is to provide the information. He wanted to make sure that was what the committee intended and wasn’t sure what they were thinking. Committee members agreed that the student representative should complete that part of the nomination there were ways for the students to obtain that information.

There was also a brief discussion of whether written comments from student evaluations could be used by students. Some members thought they may be a breach of confidentiality. That is something the Vice Provost needs to investigate.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Acting Associate Vice Provost Ed Klonoski gave an update on the PLUS baccalaureate curriculum. He told the committee that the PLUS framework and catalog language has been approved by the GEC and CUC. The attached handout was provided as an overview. The PLUS curriculum is composed of three large components: baccalaureate High Impact Practices (HIPs); Four general education areas of student and PLUS thematic pathways (optional). The HIPs include two upper-division "writing-infused" courses, First-year experience, Engaged learning (transcript documentation of curricular and co-curricular engaged learning activities), career success (UNIV 301 or equivalent) and ePortfolio.

There are four areas of study in general education, 1) foundational studies (previously core competencies), and three knowledge domains (which formerly were known as distributive studies): 2) creativity and critical analysis, 3) nature and technology and 4) society and culture. Departments were asked to indicate which domain they wanted their general education courses placed in and there was 100% completion on that and they have been approved by the GEC.

Klonoski explained Pathways. He explained the difference between a Pathway focus, which is one course from each knowledge domain within a single pathway and a pathway minor, which is one lower-division course from each knowledge domain, plus three upper-division courses from two knowledge domains within a single pathway.
Klonoski reviewed the timeline of how PLUS curriculum will go forward. The UNIV 101 course will be revised and offered in its new format in the Fall of 2015. The engaged learning transcript notation will also be available at that time. The writing infused courses will also be offered.

During a discussion about the laboratory requirement, Klonoski did say that there was no Student Learning Outcome (SLO) for scientific literacy. He thinks that was an error and that he will work with the appropriate parties to rectify that.

IV. Adjournment

B. Mackie made a motion to adjourn @ 2:00 p.m., seconded by M. Konen. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Ratfield