

Faculty Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2009

SEM II B1105, 1:00-3:00pm

Rita Pougiales, Faculty Chair, opened the meeting at 1:15.

Announcements:

Sandy Yannone invited faculty to pick up a copy of the 4th edition of Inkwell, which is dedicated to Ernestine Kimbro and includes a piece written by Steven Hendricks.

Rita announced that Karen Gaul has forwarded a list of ideas to the Agenda Committee, generated by the Sustainability & Justice Committee, regarding things that are not being done. It was requested that this be formatted and sent to faculty as a whole.

Re-Modeling Teaching and Learning at Evergreen DTF – framing Governance Group discussions:

DTF Co-chairs Kathleen Eamon and Julia Zay introduced the work. They began by identifying the membership solidified to date and indicated additional members are likely. They then reviewed the background that led to the DTF, reviewing the handout that excerpts the background section of the draft Remodeling Teaching and Learning at Evergreen DTF charge. The immediate background was the work that took place during summer 2009 in the form of a two-week transcript assessment workshop conducted at the beginning of the summer and a more broadly conceived 2-week workshop on teaching and learning at Evergreen that took place towards the end of the summer. They described that week one of the transcript review was spent developing a rating key for the six expectations, which was the product of rich and complex discussions. The second week was spent scoring a sample of 2008 graduates' transcripts to the new key. Laura Coghlan then provided a brief overview of the results of the work by walking faculty through the "Summary Table of Evidence of Expectations in Transcripts" handout. Discussion ensued.

The overview then turned to the work of the second working group which used the transcript review as one window to students' academic experience, inspiring a wholesale look at students' work. The group spent much of the first week reading and discussing reports written throughout the life of the college. It was also illuminated that the same issues and concerns have bubbled up over a long period of time. This was both reassuring and troubling, leading to an interest by participants in exploring institutional change. The six key issues that came from the summer discussions, stated in the "Background" handout, were read. The group came to discuss both changes to individual faculty practice, as well as institutional shifts that need to occur for the faculty as a whole to do better work. Discussion ensued, particularly around the question of whether or not narrative evaluations, written without a template as a guide, indicate solely a "lack of evidence..." or "evidence of a lack" in students' work along the Six Expectations.

The faculty were then provided with instructions on how to have discussions about the identified proposals. Faculty were asked to resist picking the proposals apart but rather to see if they are the right proposals to be moved forward. Kathleen and Julia then indicated the DTF will be meeting weekly and will come back to the faculty for a second governance group discussion in week 8. Julia provided an overview of the DTF's timeline for this year: In winter quarter the DTF will make proposals, continue open discussions and fine tune the suggestions; In Spring they will decide the implementation plan. The faculty then broke into governance groups for further discussion.

The next Faculty Meeting will be on October 28 from 1:00-3:00pm in SEM II B1105