

August 24, 2012

Library 222

Interdisciplinary Studies Committee Meeting

Members present: Erik Nordenhaug, Bill Deaver, Liz Desnoyer-Colas, Jewell Anderson, Debbie Jameson, Olavi Arens, Michael Benjamin, Jane Rago, Dorothee Mertz-Weigel

Members absent: Peggy Clifton, Beth Burnett

The meeting was called by Jewell Anderson at 1:05 pm.

The group elected Jane Rago as the new chair and Dorothee Mertz-Weigel as secretary.

According to the group's discussion, it seems that Interdisciplinary programs are not very well known, or understood on campus. In an effort to mitigate conceptions of Interdisciplinary programs being a competing interest, as well as put together a document that shows clearly how these programs work/can work, the group's goals are the following:

1. From the list of all interdisciplinary programs, minors and certificates, find out which classes are needed to complete those degrees, who teaches these classes (what departments/colleges), how often are they offered, can some classes be cross/listed to serve more students :
 - a. Jane will gather the information for the Gender and Women studies program
 - b. Erik will gather the information for the Religious Studies Minor
 - c. Bill will do the same for the Latin American Studies Certificate
 - d. Olavi will do this for the European Certificate
 - e. We are going to invite Jack Simmons, Director of the Liberal Studies program, to join us and compile this information for the Liberal Studies program
 - f. For Law and Society, Becky DaCruz will be contacted
 - g. Dorothee will look into the other programs: Cyber Security, Neuroscience, International Education Program
2. Once this list is compiled, meet again and discuss: how to make these courses available on a regular rotation basis for students to be able to complete the curriculum without having to substitute courses; how are these classes staffed, offered, rotated, and what is the cost of running these programs; how to show colleagues that these programs will thrive if structure is clearly laid out for them;
3. Once we have all this information, what are our next steps as a committee

4. Findings will be reported to the Senate
5. Additionally, Liz Desnoyer-Colas told us of a student worker who will be available to all Interdisciplinary program directors who will be videographer and webmaster for the Interdisciplinary programs. If one wants to make a video/clip to post on youtube/itunesyou or re-vamp a program webpage to publicize their program so that the information about what is available at AASU beyond our walls, this student will be able to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothee Mertz-Weigel