

Faculty Assembly Minutes

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

(4:30-6:00 PM) H120

Present:

Jamison Kantor, Amy Brunell, Mollie Cavender, Carol Landry, Cynthia Callahan, Gabe Karns, Phil Mazzocco, Mirel Caibar, Ozeas Costa, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Terri Bucci, John Thrasher, Kip Curtis, Dawn Kitchen, Terri Winnick, Dennis Shaffer, Juan Pablo, Sergei Chmutov, Donna Farland-Smith, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Tara Hines

I. Approval of 9 October 2024 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes

John Thrasher made a motion to approve the 9 October 2024 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes. Carol Landry seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 12 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

II. Follow Up Report: Jamison Kantor / Voting

As part of the initiative to promote civic engagement and campus voting, Jamison reported that OSU-M campus voting registration has been remarkably high. He urged faculty to distribute the voting information flyers that he will place in the faculty mailboxes to students. He also reminded the faculty assembly that on 5 November, OSU will offer only asynchronous classes to facilitate voting.

III. Committee Reports

There were no committee minutes to report, but the Resource Stewardship Committee (RSC) announced their "Bring-Your-Own Picnic lunch" initiative for Tuesday and Wednesday, 22 and 23 October at the pavilion located behind Conard and Eisenhower. The committee extended an invitation to all OSU-M faculty and staff to join and will provide desserts and water.

IV. Dean's report

Dean Opal was not able to be at the meeting but sent a short report which Kip Curtis read aloud:

"First, there is a striking and positive trend in the character of our enrollment. In brief, the number of first year students who identified Mansfield as their number one choice, as opposed to those who applied to Columbus and were "optioned" to Mansfield, went way up (around 40 %) last year. Other regional campuses experienced a similar shift. More broadly, the Office of Strategic Enrollment is prioritizing these students in its outreach efforts, in effect trying to turn out those who are already inclined to come to a small/close/superb campus like ours, rather than trying to convince or persuade Columbus-seekers to come here. I generally see this as a positive development; it would mean a campus of more positively motivated students, and perhaps higher retention rates, too.

Second, I just wanted to share that all of the external/community partners I've met over the past two months—business and civic leaders, school principals and superintendents, board members, etc. --keep stressing the absolute importance of, and crying need for, communication skills and professionalism in college graduates. My general reply to this is that this is why well-rounded, liberal arts-oriented curricula are just as important as technical and computational skills. On the "professionalism" front, we could think more about the ways that we unwittingly develop these skills in requiring our students to turn in work on time (or nearly so!), in addressing our students politely and clearly in emails and in person, etc. If any of you have thoughts on these issues, including on how I can best message our curriculum, please let me know."

V. Campus Curriculum Conversation (Faculty Retreat 2019 'Curriculum') [Faculty Retreat 2019 Curriculum .docx](#)

Kip Curtis reviewed the General Education Program structure and suggested that OSU faculty meet to create courses that would “strategically fit the GE themes.” The aim of the initiative is to develop and coordinate GE courses for maximum availability and for maximum scope. An additional aim is to make sure that the campus can offer multiple courses that meet most if not all the GE requirements. Other possibilities for increasing the availability of GE courses include cross-campus collaboration in offering and securing seats for students of the regional campuses. He also pointed out the desirability of developing team-taught courses and high impact, four-credit courses that would allow the campus to offer as many GE theme and foundations courses as possible. Jamison Kantor, who chairs the subcommittee for the “Traditions, Cultures and Transformations” theme course, offered an overview of his committee’s review process and as well as offered advice for those interested in developing high impact, 4 credit theme GE courses. Cynthia Calahan pointed out that the GE courses our campus might offer need to be staggered and arranged to offer maximum accessibility for our student population. This entails offering early and late GE classes. She also pointed out the necessity of avoiding GE overlap in course scheduling. Faculty members posed questions about the logistics of choosing and developing GEs and whether we should offer as many GEs as possible or focus strategically on certain GEs that better fit the campus profile. Cynthia Callahan recommended that (1) the campus gather information about prospective GE theme and foundation courses then (2) meet with the campus coordinators to organize and schedule courses that are not redundant and that do not overlap. The conversation will resume at the next faculty assembly meeting on 19 November.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45

Respectfully submitted,

Sjoyce