

Advancement of Student Learning Committee

Minutes

January 9, 2017

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Page Conference Room, TAC 316

Members present: Charla Griffy-Brown, Chair; Graziadio School of Business and Management  
Katie Dodds, School of Law  
Brad Dudley, Student Affairs  
Brad Griffin, Seaver College  
Amy Tuttle Guerrero, Graduate School of Education and Psychology  
Lisa Bortman, Assistant Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, ex officio  
Lee Kats, Vice Provost for Research and Strategic Initiatives, ex officio  
Ross Canning, Recorder

Guest: Jay Brewster, chair, University Academic Council

Absent: Mary Ann Naumann, University Libraries

I. Welcome and Call to Order.

Charla Griffy-Brown opened the meeting at 12:04 PM with words of appreciation and thanks followed by lunch. The Council discussed current events around the different programs including an upcoming Livetext training and the School of Law's accreditation visit today through Wednesday.

Katy Dodds reported on the activities at the School of Law. A number of faculty are participating in the assessment of their first outcome and entering them into Livetext and being introduced to the rubric that Katy's team has created. Lisa suggested that discussing student learning is often an easier conversation and she'll arrange to have a presentation for the Law faculty.

The Graduate School of Education and Psychology is up for 5-year reviews this year. Drafts of reports and the site visits are scheduled. Amy said that the School has come a long way over the past few months. The faculty is more open to doing things in new ways. More assessment data is needed for the reports and Amy has encouraged the departments that are missing data to

disclose the absence and have a plan in place to remedy the deficiency.

Graziadio School has more faculty buy-in on teacher evaluations. Last year the School started using Livetext. Strategic planning discussions that include assessment are beginning with Dean van Rensburg. All of the faculty involved in annual assessments are using Livetext. There is still a deficiency of faculty support for assessment but progress is being made. Some programs are really doing well and some are blocking and tackling. The message to the faculty has been if they plan to make program changes, assessment and strategic planning are required.

Lisa Bortman has recently read some WSCUC reports that show comments on weak follow-through on strategic plans.

Lee Kats said the Strategic Planning process is on the front burner for the president and provost to replace Boundless Horizon 2020, which was built out of necessity for the WASC visit in 2012.

The School of Public Policy has a number of proposals coming to the University Academic Council (UAC) this year. Mike Shires is the associate dean for strategy now and he is working to promote evidence-based decisions. The School is looking at updating the syllabi for the master's program as it changes the units required for the master's degree. Strategic plan creation is not on the radar yet. There are huge changes coming up among schools of public policy and a lot of competition keeping the heat on SPP to stay relevant.

Health, Counseling, and Community Standards departments have program reviews this year. Two of these have external accrediting bodies and due to requirements, they will not be utilizing Livetext.

## II. Business

### **A. Approval of minutes**

Charla Griffy-Brown called for consideration of the minutes, with changes to be made by 5 PM in Google Documents. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **B. Introduction and visit with Dr. Jay Brewster, Associate Provost, Professor of Biology, and University Academic Council (UAC) Chair**

Charla gave an introduction to the discussion question of what Dr. Jay Brewster's views and vision are for the UAC and for the interconnected processes of the UAC and ASLC and how best to work collaboratively in the future.

Dr. Brewster gave a description of the University Academic Council, which is a faculty decision-making body where academic planning is managed. The Council is checked by the authority of the provost and president to override its decisions. Academic policy, program changes and procedures are under the purview of the UAC. The different school representatives see where there are overlaps and some collaboration starts there. The Council has questions about what data should be presented and there is a disconnect from the program reviews and assessment. There is no formal way to review the MOUs, QIPs and Program Reviews. The committee sometimes makes blind decisions because of the sheer volume of documents from new proposals and the expedience to implement the changes.

Charla asked what the process should be to help inform the UAC of the activities of ASLC. Lisa questioned whether the MOU is a public document. The Program Review and QIP is required to be public by WSCUC. Mike shared his concern that program reviews that are of any merit are too strategically sensitive to post on a public site.

The ASLC discussed the procedure and whether the dean of a school proposing a change should meet with the UAC to explain the backstory of the request. Then the schools brings proposals to the UAC because they need to make a change. There is pressure to approve requests because the department needs to make the change for funding-reasons.

### **C. Student Voice and how to include students in the strategic planning process.**

At the university level, we are falling short on getting students involved in the assessment process. Charla wants to include the student voice in the ASLC spring retreat and suggested that each of the ASLC representatives poll their students to gain their perspectives. The questions should be school-specific and pertain to the goals and strategic planning of the Council. Core competencies may be the best topic on which to get students involved in the discussion of strategic planning and curriculum reform. Charla will share what they are going to do in Graziadio School with the rest of the Council and discuss how to proceed with student involvement. The Council discussed having the student governments of the schools choose appointees to join the ASLC and see what they have to offer. Mike will talk to a former student representative regarding her experience and gage how best to incorporate the student voice in assessment. The Council decided to have a focus group of students at the next meeting to discuss what the student contribution to ASLC may be going forward.

## **IV. Adjournment**

The ASLC adjourned at 1:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2017, at noon as a virtual meeting on Adobe Connect and in the Page Conference Room, TAC 316.