

Academic Council

Meeting Notes
9 October 2018

Call to order

A meeting of the UCC Academic Council was held at HSN 100 on 9 October 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

Attendees

(May not be complete list; this is who I remember): Kacy Crabtree, Karen Carroll, Jason Aase, Amy Fair, April Myler, Clay Baumgartner, Crystal Sullivan, Dee Winn, Gary Gray, Gwen Soerberg-Chase, Joanne Richards, Stuart Kramer, Marie Gambill, Toni Clough, Tamara Loosli, Vincent Yip

Business

- I. The 10/30 meeting will include a presentation by the Provost's Council about strategic priorities for the year. This will be open to any faculty, and the SLT has been invited.
- II. Academic Council, Purpose and Structure
 - A. The charge of AC is to lead and make major decisions impacting the academic life of UCC.
 - B. The structure of AC was discussed, and is still somewhat a work in progress. There was an ultimate general consensus that Kacy and Crystal will co-chair and Susan will take notes for now. Attendees will be the Provost, Deans, Chairs, and Coordinators, with other concerned parties invited as needed (e.g., the Registrar, Financial Aid, etc.).
 - C. Four ad hoc committees will be formed (Academic Policies, Curriculum, Gen Ed, and Teaching and Learning). Stuart Kramer will chair Gen Ed. Kacy will ask for volunteers for the remainder. Once established, chairs will invite faculty participation on each committee.
- III. The Academic Calendar was discussed at length, especially the proposed 8 week summer session for 2019 and 2020.
 - A. Kacy researched and found several colleges in the state with 8 week summer sessions.
 - B. The major concern on the part of faculty is that the decision to move to an 8 week summer session was not made from a position of shared governance. Questions remaining unanswered:
 - i. What data is being used to demonstrate this is a good decision for students?
 - a. Kacy has pulled the GPA statistics for students from 2018.
 - b. 2019 GPA stats can be compared to those from 2018 to evaluate.
 - c. How will accredited programs be accommodated?

- ii. Could there be rolling closures? Does the entire campus have to close during the same week?
- iii. If going to an 8 week schedule, is the college willing to go to a five day week as is done at other schools with 8 week schedules?
- iv. When final exams are factored in, an 8 week schedule provides only 7 or 7.5 weeks of instructional time.
- v. Can the conversion of online classes be automated?
- vi. Will faculty be compensated for the time involved in reconfiguring class schedules?

C. Other concerns:

- i. Impact on student success due to compressed schedule, less “soak time.”
- ii. Length of lab classes will need to be increased to 4.5 and 5 hours. This is not necessarily the best pedagogical practice.
- iii. Impact on students who need to work.
- iv. Fewer class sections will likely be offered (summer is optional, so faculty may choose not to teach), leading to a decline in enrollment. This will snowball into reduced enrollments in fall courses because students won’t be prepared for more advanced classes.
- v. Concern about increased pace required by compressed schedule leading to reduced student persistence.

IV. Remaining agenda items moved to next meeting, scheduled for 16 October.

Adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan Rochester

October 12, 2018

Date of approval