

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Via Zoom

In Attendance: Catharina Laporte, Patrick Bolger, Christopher Hemming, Tasha Dubriwny, Robert Harmel, Deborah Carlson, Andrea Imhoff, Steven Obehelman, Danie Humphrey, Emily Johansen, Manuelita Ureta, Hoi-Eun Kim, Margaret Ezell, Steve Miller, Kenny Easwaran, Theresa Morris, Roger Reese

Guest: Heather Lench

Next Scheduled Liberal Arts Council Meeting

December 8, 2021

Discussion

- Service and Engagement Presentation (handout) – Kenny Easwaran and Heather Lench
 - 3:00 pm
 - SO introduces topic
 - Hands it over to HL
 - Overview of process
 - Committee met several times, and explicitly took a non-prescriptive approach, so that units can figure this out for themselves.
 - Recommendation 1: Emphasis on departments discussing among themselves what the relative values of different service efforts have, and moving forward with more explicit guidelines for the department
 - Recommendation 2: Emphasizes the role of department heads, particularly in discussions with faculty, and annual reviews
 - Recommendation 3: Emphasizes making service across the department more visible so that everyone is more aware of service being carried out beyond their own efforts at service. Myopia can lead to distorted perceptions of fairness.
 - Discussion
 - CL thinks this is great. Thinks we should add ways to make it clear to faculty how they can help with service, and find a way to follow up with faculty on reaching their service goals.
 - CL was wondering where this goes forward from here. HL answered that this was meant to push conversations within departments forward, albeit in a tumultuous environment at the university level. SO solicited suggestions from the LAC.
 - TM gave us the original background on the impetus for this project, noting that the main problem that the former Dean noticed was that service was not being rewarded equitably across departments.

- SO agrees with TM's summary. SO noted that back in the day, service expectations were high. Then the pendulum swung the other way, where service expectations became low. He notes that service shouldn't swing back and forth like that, so he's adding that not only should service be standardized across departments, but also made more of a consistent expectation overall
 - Finished at 3:31 pm
- Role/purpose/existence of the LAC moving forward – Catharina Laporte
 - 3:31 pm
 - KL is worried about whether this committee has a real purpose. She thinks we need to have this conversation.
 - AI noted that an informal conversation is not necessarily a bad thing. She isn't under the impression that this committee ever had an active charge.
 - SO said that it used to. It used to act as an active layer of approval for various curriculum changes at the department level. But that was removed because it was causing delays.
 - DH agrees with AI as well.
 - SO notes that this is the only group of faculty that he has an opportunity to interact with on a formal basis. He stated that he works for the faculty, so he appreciates this. It's important for the faculty to have access to the Dean. He thinks it doesn't have to have an active charge.
 - EJ noted that there isn't really a good mechanism for the members of the LAC to act as conduits of information back and forth between faculty, units, and the Dean's Office. This seems to be missing.
 - KE was wondering about the history of the LAC (SM noted that it's over 40 years old), and whether this exists in other colleges.
 - DC (chat) and TM noted that the LAC did revise the College Bylaws, among other things.
 - SO wondered whether we report back to our respective departments.
 - Some said yes. The answer was not quite clear.
 - DH noted that if we acted as a communication pipeline, this committee would be quite valuable.
 - SM was wondering whether this committee might serve some role on the restructuring occurring at the university level
 - SO replied that when the President makes her recommendations, he would like us to meet to discuss how to respond. SO suspects that this might take place around Dec. 13th. So we may move the Dec 8th meeting to the 15th, if we can. He noted many issues that are going to arise if a College of Arts & Sciences is formed. He thinks this will be at least a 2-year issue.
 - AI had a question about the MGT report. She was contacted by a news agency. She has been contacted 3 times by the media this semester. She's wondering

whether others have experienced this, and whether there are clear guidelines for us to deal with the media.

- SO mentioned that he has been contacted several times by the media, and he always ignores them. He does not talk to the media.
- PB (the secretary) had to leave at 4pm, so the minutes end here. He wrote in chat asking someone else to take over minutes, but he didn't see any response. Hopefully, someone else is doing this.

Reminders
