

Minutes
Academic Policy Committee, Faculty Senate
Regular Meeting:10/14/2014

Senators Attending: Montse Fuentes (Co-chair), Derek Aday (Co-chair), Sarah Ash, Alton Banks, Roy Borden, David Auerbach.

Guests: Jo-Ann Cohen (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, COS), Jane Lubischer

1. Introductions

Meeting began at 3:15pm with introductions of those in attendance.

2. Life Science First Year

Jane Lubischer came to the APC to make us aware of the LSFY program and to continue the process of getting the word out about what they are trying to accomplish. She discussed the history of the program and the needs they are attempting to address. In particular, she stressed that some majors (Biology) tended to be selected by default whereas students don't get exposure to other majors until the junior or senior year. One goal of the LSFY program is to expose students to each of the seven life science majors early in their academic careers so that they can make informed choices.

Jane indicated that one current focus is on proactive advising. Currently there are approximately 360 students and the goal is to be at or below 120 students per professional advisor. Another focus is LSC 103, where students have the opportunity to explore majors and find their own passions and interests. Yet another priority is LSC 101, a critical and creative thinking class that meets IP requirements.

The LSFY process results in students applying through CODA at the end of the first year. Programs have preferred standards and there is some variation from major to major in terms of qualification for acceptance.

The APC discussed issues about student participation rates in LSFY (vs transfer) and the number of hours the program adds to the curriculum. There was also discussion about how to effectively get students to learn/consider/appreciate multiple perspectives on important issues inside (and outside) the sciences.

There was further discussion about whether this might serve as a model for the university and there was general agreement that the university might be moving toward thematic portals for first year students. There was discussion about the value of this approach in terms of presenting students a broader perspective on majors and career options than the current system provides.

Jane also presented information about the proposed BA in Biology. Biological Sciences is moving forward with this proposal and student demand seems high. The BA would essentially cut chemistry/physics/calculus requirements by about half and would require a second focal study area outside of the life sciences. Indications are that this is currently a university priority.

Status of this issue: Life Sciences First Year: Closed.

Action: The APC expressed support for inviting Jane to present this information to the full senate. That request will move forward at the next Executive Committee meeting.

3. Committee participation of APC members

The APC members that were present serve on the following committees:

Sarah: CUE

Alton: UCCC; Calendar, Records, and Registration Committee (there was some discussion here following up on an earlier presentation about the unified calendar)

Jo-Ann: Associate Deans

Montse: UBAC; Graduate Enrollment Committee (there was discussion here about new funding models and upcoming decisions about how to proceed)

David: UCCC char, CUE (there was discussion here about the need to modify/improve the syllabus tool)

Roy: International Programs Committee (there was discussion here about the desire to increase the number of students participating in international programs. Discussion centered on the value of those courses and whether credits meet our academic standards. It was mentioned that Costa Rica is being considered as a new study abroad center/hub)

Derek: UBAC; Council on Athletics; Sustainability Fee Advisory Board; Park Advisory Committee; University Scholars Advisory Board (there was discussion about the class attendance policy revisions at the Athletics Council)

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

Submitted by Derek Aday