Social Sciences Department Meeting, January 10, 2014

Attended: Cynthia Chausse; Kathy Clark; Jacquelyn Davis, Thomas Donaldson; Terri Heck; Mark Herman; Dawn R. Kulpanowski; Sabine B. Maetzke; Brian Page; Eric Seelau; Shelia Seelau; Harold Van Boven; Laura Weir; Philip Wisely.

Meeting Minutes, 1:00pm-1:55pm.

1. Chair Resignation

* Professor Laura Weir announced she was resigning as Chair for the Social Sciences Department. Professor Weir expressed her gratitude toward the Department for their support and thanked the Social Sciences Department for being excellent colleagues to work with as Chair.
* The faculty of the Social Sciences Department expressed their appreciation for Dr. Weir’s leadership over the last year.

1. New Chair Election

* Professor Phillip Wisely announced the criteria for establishing a new Chair and opened up the meeting for nominations.
* Professor Sabine Maetzke nominated Brian Page. The nomination was seconded by Professor Terri Heck.
* No additional nominations were made.
* Brian Page was unanimously elected as Chair by the Department.

1. New Dean Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

* Professor Mark Herman, who served on the search committee for the New Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, informed the Department of the qualifications of Dr. Emery Alford, the New Dean for the School.

1. Curriculum Updates, Course Offerings, and Scheduling

* The Department discussed a variety of issues related to curriculum, course offerings, and scheduling college wide.
* Professor Terri Heck informed the department that the new psychology course for the proposed leadership program has been submitted for review by the curriculum committee.
* The Department discussed curriculum committee representation. Professor Seelau noted that while she is on the curriculum committee the new faculty seminars conflict with the curriculum committee meetings times. Professor Chausse informed the committee that she is on the curriculum committee.
* The Department discussed the status of the proposed Leadership Program, and the level of interest from the college for additional Baccalaureate Programs in the Social Sciences, such as psychology or international studies.
* Cynthia Chausse inquired about the process of teaching additional psychology classes in the college catalog on the Charlotte campus.
* The Department discussed the process of classroom scheduling college wide. Professor Clark inquired whether or not faculty could have input in room decisions. It was noted that in certain cases classrooms were not conducive to the needs for social science classes college wide.
* Professor Van Boven inquired about classroom size and whether or not there was a process to raise individual class size based on demand. In some cases, delays in financial aid resulted in students being dropped, who were unable to add the class once financial aid issues were resolved.

1. Faculty Searches.

* Professor Page noted the search for a new Professor in History for Lee Campus is ongoing. There is also a new vacancy for History Professor on the Collier Campus. Unfortunately, Professor Cole had to resign his position.
* Professor Page expressed the need to continue to evaluate the need for new faculty in the social sciences college wide.
* Professor Clark observed the need for new faculty to teach the cornerstone class. The number of sections will expand next year. Professor Clark noted there has been some discussion for joint positions for discipline and cornerstone.

1. Adjunct Faculty Mentoring and Evaluation System.

* Professor Page informed the department of a new adjunct faculty mentoring and evaluation system being proposed by the college. The details are still unclear, but it seems the college desires for new adjuncts to be assigned a mentor and all Dual Enrollment instructors at the High Schools to be evaluated by faculty members by respective disciplines. The details are still unclear. Professor Page hopes to have further clarification upon arrival of the new Dean.
* Professor Chausse expressed interest in the importance of a mentoring system to establish consistency in respective disciplines. Faculty, however, expressed reservations about evaluating instructors. Questions were raised about process and what were the intended results for evaluation. Professor Donaldson noted this may provide faculty the opportunity to have a more active role over the hiring and retention of instructors.
* Professor Kulpanowski noted that, in fact, in the past there was a mentoring system for adjunct faculty. Instead of being mentored by full-time faculty, new adjuncts were assigned to adjunct mentor. She suggested Bonnie Lawler may have more information on how the mentoring program was run in the past.
* The faculty supported a mentoring system, but noted questions still remained evaluating Dual Enrollment Instructors.

1. New Business and Motion to Adjourn.

* No new business was introduced.
* Professor Page made a motion to adjourn at 1:55pm. The motion was seconded and the department adjourned.