Social Sciences Department Meeting, February 14, 2014

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

Excused: Kathy Clark

Meeting Minutes, 1:00-2:00pm

Please note since the technology was malfunction the meeting did not officially start until 1:40pm. While IT was unable to establish video connection with all the campuses, the department was able to connect via polycom. As a result, the department was only able to hold an abbreviate meeting, minimizing the opportunity for substantial discussion.

1. Dr. Emery Alford, Dean AHSS, Edison State College
* Dr. Emery Alford, the new Dean of AHSS, visited the department to introduce himself to Social Sciences Faculty.
* Since Dr. Alford had not yet had a chance to meet everyone in the school, he gave the faculty a brief synopsis of his background and indicated his willingness to work with all faculty in the AHSS at Edison State College.
* The Social Sciences faculty expressed their gratitude for his willingness to introduce himself the department and indicated they look forward to working with Dr. Alford.
1. Department Update
* Since the meeting did not officially start until 1:40pm, Professor Page was only able to provide the department with an update and matters of importance.
* Dr. Page informed the department that the college is moving forward with the adjunct mentoring system. The intention of the program is to identify mentors from prospective disciplines to interact and observe adjunct faculty. Unlike the previous system, adjuncts will no longer be required submit a portfolio every year, but rather, every three years. This will be the official college policy beginning 2014-2015. As a result, Dr. Page indicated this will mean the Chair of the Social Sciences Department will be requesting volunteers in the future. Currently, this semester, Dr. Page he doing all of the teaching observations.
* The department was provided with a power point presentation on textbook adoptions from Dobin Anderson. For textbooks, it is important to remember that faculty should look for the most cost effective materials when considering future adoptions. In addition, Dr. Page reminded faculty that they can make separate or supplementary text book adoptions for individual courses if needed.
* Dr. Page reminded the department of course level assessments to take place this semester.
* One matter that will become important is General Education curriculum next year. The department was provided with the most recent draft of the new state recommendations to be implemented for 2015-2016. This will mean revisions to the current general education curriculum at Edison. Dr. Wright has created a committee to review the General Education curriculum and Professor Harold Van Boven graciously agreed to serve as a Social Sciences representative.
* The department briefly discussed the Community of Practice for the Social Sciences. It was agreed to continue the Community of Practice series. For the next community of practice, the department will discuss developing a mission statement for the Social Sciences.
1. Adjournment
* There was no new business; therefore, the meeting adjourned.