University of Dayton

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Fall 12-1-2023

2023-12-01 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

University of Dayton. Academic Senate. Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, December 1, 2023
1:30-3pm – SM 113B

President: Erin O'Mara Kunz
Vice President: Allison Kinney
Secretary: Jon Fulkerson
Members: Ali Carr-Chellman, Garrett Conti, Jen Dalton, Wiebke Diestelkamp, Jon Fulkerson, Tim Gabrielli, Colleen Gallagher, Kayla Harris, Precious Henderson, Allison Kinney, Erin O'Mara Kunz, Joel Pruce (Faculty Board), Andrea Seielstad, Darlene Weaver

Guests: Simanti Dasgupta, Jackson Goodnight, Nancy Miller, Chad Painter

Present: Ali Carr-Chellman, Jen Dalton, Wiebke Diestelkamp, Jon Fulkerson, Tim Gabrielli, Kayla Harris, Precious Henderson, Allison Kinney, Erin O'Mara Kunz, Joel Pruce, Darlene Weaver, Jackson Goodnight, Nancy Miller, Chad Painter

Absent: Garrett Conti, Colleen Gallagher, Andrea Seielstad

Opening
- Call to Order, 1:32 (E. Kunz)
- Opening prayer/meditation (Kayla Harris) [Prayer/meditation sign up here]
- **VOTE:** approval of minutes from the November 17, 2023 meeting
  - Approved by unanimous consent.

Announcements
- December 6, 2023, Blue Sky Meeting, EL and LP models revealed, KU Ballroom
  - EL @ 9am
  - LP @ 10am
- December 15, 2023, Next ECAS meeting, 1:30-3pm, SM 113B
- December 18, 2023: Next ELC meeting, 10:30-12, KU Presidential Suite
  - May or may not occur, depending on what items are ready for the agenda.
- January 12, 2024: First ECAS meeting of semester, 12:30-2, SM 113b
- January 19, 2024, Next Academic Senate Meeting, 3:30-5:30, KU Ballroom
  - We need to finalize the January senate meeting agenda at the December 15 ECAS meeting

Agenda Item
- **DISCUSSION:** SSC 200 with Social Science Chairs (Scott Belshaw (absent), Simanti Dasgupta, Jon Fulkerson, Jackson Goodnight, Nancy Miller, Chad Painter)
- Related documents:
  - The Common Academic Program (amended in 2016), DOC 2010-04
  - Common Academic Program Review Report, APC 04/2023
  - SSC 200 5-year review
  - SSC 200 review slides
  - Suspension of the CAP-C Four-Year Reapproval Process for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, DOC 2023-06

- E. O'Mara Kunz:
  - Academic Senate has started to respond to the CAP five-year review that occurred last year.
  - The goal is for Academic Senate to eventually consider each CAP component
  - The Social Science Chairs were invited to discuss SSC 200, for which there appear to be some specific concerns that need to be addressed in a timely manner.
- Jackson Goodnight came with a prepared presentation on the state of SSC 200. Summary of presentation discussion:
  - Notes that SSC 200 has value, is distinctive, and encourages interdisciplinary collaboration. Important in the developmental framework of CAP when taken by sophomores. Assessment suggests the course has been meeting its goals.
  - The course currently has several challenges:
    - The supporting departments have not been sufficiently staffed. 48% of sophomores completed the course last year. Average is 57% over the past 5 years. There is always a need for more sections.
    - The course was designed for 20 seats per class, but has actually been running 30-35 seats due to insufficient number of sections.
    - The course creates pressure on departments. Departments are offering fewer electives, bigger section sizes, designating more "majors only" classes, and more online classes.
    - Cannot find adjuncts to teach SSC 200 because of the teaching methods and training requirements.
  - The staffing problem is getting worse:
    - Growing number of declared majors and minors in the social sciences, but shrinking faculty. There is a growing student credit hours per faculty and fewer positions.
    - Discontinuation of the Communications graduate program will shift faculty from SSC 200 to CMM 100.
    - Projecting a need for 80 sections for next year's sophomore class; expected to be able to offer 35-40.
  - Q: If the shortage has been persistent, how has the backlog not stopped students from graduating?
    - A: Juniors and seniors have been filling up the classes, but the percentage of sophomores in this class has decreased. The backlog has gradually been building, partially offset by changes in class sizes.
  - Q: Why wasn't it staffed fully when it was designed?
    - A: Departments were expecting more staffing, but it never happened. Also have lost a few lines across the departments or have faculty serving in administrative roles that were not backfilled.
    - A: Training and workload requirements of the course make it harder to move faculty in and out of the course. Can't easily hire adjuncts for SSC 200 or to backfill major courses.
    - A: Departments have consistently raised this issue.
  - Have discussed possible ways to address the staffing issues:
    - Option 1: Keep SSC 200 as is and hire 10 faculty across the social sciences.
      - Seems unlikely that this will happen.
    - Option 2: Keep SSC 200, but offer additional social science methods course options to satisfy the CAP social science requirement; effectively all social science majors or minors would no longer need to take SSC 200. Likely would reduce demand for SSC 200 by 11 sections.
      - General discussion about possible impact.

- ■ Option 3: Eliminate SSC 200, but maintain a social science requirement for CAP (e.g., allow any social science course as a replacement)
  - ● General discussion about possible impact.
  - ● Concern that we lose a distinctive feature of UD's education.
- ○ Q: What is the negative impact on your department of canceling?
  - ■ A: Sociology views it as a recruiting course and believes it would reduce their major counts.
  - ■ A: Communication teaches it through lecturers and it is popular with several of their faculty. Concerned they may need to do more "major only" intro courses. Doesn't see other downsides to the department.
  - ■ A: Psychology does not see it as having a downside for their department.
  - ■ A: Political Science does not see it as having a downside for their department other than a few faculty enjoyed teaching it.
  - ■ A: Economics does not see it as having a downside.
- ○ Comment: Concern that students with strict programs of study have a hard time fitting the course in their schedule. Also are unable to take the social science courses they actually want (for example, a dietetics major who wants to take psychology or social work). Limits ability to pick up minors in social sciences.
- ○ Q: What is the positive impact on your department of removing the SSC 200 requirement?
  - ■ A: Psychology would offer smaller class sizes for introductory level classes and more major electives.
  - ■ A: Political Science would add electives and would likely initiate curriculum development within their major.
  - ■ A: Communications doesn't see it changing things a lot.
  - ■ A: Sociology believes faculty would get more options to teach classes in their area and would expect to develop new classes.
  - ■ A: Economics does not see it as having a big impact on their program.
- ○ Q: Is it possible to come up with courses from each department that fit the idea of SSC 200, but is definitively within the major and introduces the field's method?
  - ■ A: Would require significant course revision.
  - ■ A: Concern that it is "walking back" SSC 200.
  - ■ A: Difficulties around prerequisite courses.
- ○ Comment: SSC 200 has a big touch point in the library. Changes in requirement would lead to changes in how faculty incorporate the library into their classes.
- ○ Q: Can you please discuss more about how SSC 200 adds distinctiveness or competitiveness as opposed to an intro course?
  - ■ Creates interesting opportunities for exposure to other disciplines.
  - ■ General discussion about distinctiveness.
- ○ Comment: Currently creates a bad experience for students needing the course, but also reduces ability of students to discover interests and complete minors and majors.
- ○ Faculty could create new courses based on their SSC 200 course.
- ○ General discussion about implementation issues for any change:
  - ■ Issues around changing for next year versus long term.
  - ■ Important not to create a short term solution that contradicts with the long term solution
  - ■ Would simplify parts of transfer and make other parts more difficult
- ○ It is possible we can teach out SSC 200 in AY 24-25 for current students, but still need to address incoming freshmen very soon.

The following items have been tabled until next ECAS meeting:
- **DISCUSSION:** April 8, 2024, Solar Eclipse and Classes
- **DISCUSSION:** New Ad Hoc Committee? Faculty Committee for Academic Research
- **DISCUSSION:** Next steps for DOC 2023-07, 2023-08
- **DISCUSSION:** Undergraduate Course enrollment threshold (Darlene Weaver)
- **DISCUSSION:** January academic senate meeting agenda?
- **DISCUSSION:** Faculty Compensation in excess of 100% Annualized Base Salary (DOC 2018-06), Faculty Employment Outside the University (DOC 2018-07), and the Policy for Extra Compensation for Employees Supported by Sponsored Research Programs (Erin Kunz)
  - Overview of proposed revisions
  - Memo on Outside Employment Policy 2018 (1).docx
  - Memo on Additional Faculty Compensation (1).docx

Motion to adjourn (K. Harris).

Adjourned 3:08.

Respectfully submitted by Jon Fulkerson, Secretary to the Academic Senate.