Participants
Members: Jeffrey Sabby (Chair), Lenora Anop, Aminata Cairo, Liza Cummings (Excused), Bryan Jack, Susanne James, Hoo Sang Ko, Ram Madupalli, Sorin Nastasia, Gerald O’Brien, Carl Springer, Jason Williams.
Student Senate Members: Luke Chomko (absent), Daniel Gray (absent)
Ex-Officio Members: Zenia Agustin, Scott Belobrajdic (absent), Denise Cobb, Mary Ettling, Anne Flaherty, Yvonne Mitkos, Laura Strom, Cheryle Tucker

Meeting started at 2:33 pm
Agenda and other materials were distributed to the participants

1. Announcements: None.

2. Consideration of minutes from 03/19/2015: Approved unanimously

3. Program Reviews
   a. Historical Studies
      Thad Meeks (chair of review committee):
      - Interviews have been conducted with several students from three different classes; strengths found: the department faculty are being proactive with the curriculum changes
      - Recommendations:
        • program should promote more open communication among faculty (transparency) and more relative equity in course scheduling; assignment of graduate teaching assistants should be handled differently
        • changes were made proactively (including for the Lincoln Plan)
        • concerning the World History course: it is a large class, so there are concerns about lack of student-faculty interactions
        • steps have been taken to improve the capstone experience; some students seem not to be prepared for this kind of experience
        • transfer students are being helped through a good mentoring system
        • more space and more faculty are needed
        • enrollment levels are not a real problem right now
        • program faculty should continue to be proactive in their recruitment efforts
        • faculty should put in place a more open communication system
      
      Carole Frick (chair of department) response:
      • some of the recommendations are surprising
      • one faculty quit in the middle of the semester, giving just a two-week notice
      • we are making efforts to teach students
      • for HIST 120 World History, students wanted this course in this format
      • labs are a new feature for Social Sciences
      • HIST 401 senior assignment: students can now turn in a digital assessment (ex.: historical site app)
      • we can improve assessment by adding courses to the core
      • 17 faculty members are mentors and they meet with students all the time
      • the department has some new resources (IRIS lab is shared with English)
      • enrollment took a dip in 2008
Wendy Shaw:
• the curricular reform in the department has been creative, innovative
• enrollment: there has been a decline in the history teacher education
• courses’ scheduling is there for the students’ needs
• faculty have clear guidelines to understand the tenure process or they can ask for clarifications
• did our best to solve the lack of space problem; there are no spare resources to be used anymore

b. Geography
*Review team representatives were not present, so we had only Gillian Acheson, Department Chair, responding to recommendations:
• the assessment process should be expanded to include multiple stages of data collection; the Department’s ad-hoc strategic planning committee will examine the current assessment measures and will include an earlier point of assessment
• expansion of coordination between Geography and other departments in respect to teaching of GIS classes; unsure how to address this recommendation; there are 3-5 GIS-related courses per semester, including summer; this class is capped to 24 students, there cannot be any more courses scheduled in the lab, and this is the maximum number of faculty who teach in this area
• the maintenance of up-to-date technology in the computer labs is essential to quality instruction; agree with committee recommendations
• the program should evaluate the library resources that are necessary for students; for access to GIS software outside of the dedicated lab there are extensive open lab hours during which students can work on projects; software was loaded on some other campus computers when requested, but not all computers can support it and the software has to be maintained from the Department
• the department should enhance their efforts to recruit first year students; working on building relationships with other colleges in the area

Wendy Shaw:
• concerning GIS, we cannot expand the number of sections offered; we have a site license shared with Carbondale; many disciplines can use this software
• we should maintain current technologies through external grants
• there are no resources available for a coordinator of internships right now (having an internship is not actually required)

Zenia Agustin: those who cannot get internships do not necessarily show lack of discipline skills but maybe they need interview skills, so this should not be required.

c. *For the evaluation of the Nursing program, there are no materials posted on Sharepoint yet, so the individual considerations will be sent later to Jeff Sabby through e-mail after the materials will become available; for the moment, all members should take notes from the presentation of findings.

Considerations:
Historical Studies
Jeff Sabby:
Motion to vote for the standing rating “In Good Standing” for the Historical Studies program
Approved (18; 0; 0)
Motion to vote for the enrollment rating “Sustainable at Present Levels”
Approved (18; 0; 0)
Motion to vote for the retention/completion rating “Satisfactory”
Approved (18; 0; 0)

Comments: they have been responsible; notable that they are maintaining student numbers though they have lost a Teacher Ed faculty

Geography
Jeff Sabby:
Motion to vote for the standing rating “In Good Standing” for the Geography program
Approved (18; 0; 0)
Motion to vote for the enrollment rating “Sustainable at Present Levels”
Approved (18; 0; 0)
Motion to vote for the retention/completion rating “Satisfactory”
Approved (18; 0; 0)

Comments: impressive external grants and self funding; they do a lot of work for the system (GIS maps etc.)

4. Reports
a. Standing Committees and Operations
   i. Undergraduate Programs Committee (UPC)
      a. G. O’Brien informed that UPC recommended for approval: BUS 15-3 (changes the CIP code for the BS CMIS Program); ENR 15-02 (BS in Mechatronics and Robotics) hearing held on March 16); SOE 14-1058 (changes to the requirements for the Speech-Language Pathology program); and SOE 15-1108 (changes to the requirements for the BS in Nutrition).

   ii. Undergraduate Courses Committee (UCC)
      a. Hoo Sang Ko: a number of 34 proposals have been approved in the last period

   iii. General Education Committee (GEC)
      a. Anne Flaherty proposed that Jessica Harris and David Jennings are elected as new CAS representatives for 3 year terms, and Matthew Schunke be elected as chair for 1 year term; the council members approved unanimously

   iv. Academic Standards and Policies Committee (ASPC): nothing to report


   vi. Graduation Appeals Committee (GAC): no report

b. Additional Reports
   i. Enrollment Management: no report
   ii. Registrar: no report
   iii. Educational Outreach: no report
   iv. Academic Advising: no report
   v. Instructional Services
      - we do not have a Summer Bridge / Summer Success Program this year (????????????)
      - on July 1 they become Learning Support Services; they will have a Tutoring Resource Center
   vi. Assessment: no report

5. Unfinished Business
   a. Continue eTextbook discussion (????????????)
   b. Continue Health Science Task Force (????????????)

6. New Business
   a. Motion to elect Jeff Sabby to continue as Chair of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Council for next year; members voted “yes” unanimously
   b. Discussion of Honors Program
      - Jeff Sabby: motion to add Honors Program Liaison function; second: Anne Flaherty
      Approved: 18; 0; 0
*3. c. Nursing program

Program Review
(I don’t know the name of the person who spoke; she was not the chair of the committee)
- 15 faculty were interviewed; several students were surveyed

Recommendations:
- School of Nursing should make plans for addressing nursing needs in this region
- they are doing a great job for the moment
- senior assignment needs are well addressed
- should develop a regional program SIUE in collaboration with SIUC
- mid-semester assessment should be performed so they are more prepared for changes; they should adapt to regional tendencies

Response (chair of program and Dean of Nursing)
- they cannot increase undergraduate advising because there is a shortage of faculty available for advising
- they hired a full time advisor (RNTBS)
- they are using a more robust system for communication and feedback – Shuttle Health – a software in which students participate as avatars
- they are using the teaching system of 8 week courses
- there is coordination between the Carbondale and Edwardsville campuses; classrooms and offices in Carbondale will be renovated over the summer
- Community Blackboard site is operational
- since Fall 2014 there have not been any more telecommunicating courses; not faculty travel to Carbondale
- there used to be 14-15 students assigned for SRA projects, now there are only 3-4 students assigned
- there is a good level of support from SIUE, so the program has grown
- on line program has helped with space issues
- there are now approximately 1,200 undergraduate students; 180 admitted in the fall by SIUE; 40-50 admitted by Carbondale
- the program has peaked, due to placement issues; RNTBS can still grow

Observations: it would be better if the School of Nursing would be able to provide individual advising, not group advising

d. Political Science

Program Review (who spoke??)
- several faculty were interviewed
- there were interviews with students from two classes
- notable point in the Internal Review Report: item J. – Overall Opportunities for Improvement: nearly all the faculty noted that many students do not have adequate qualitative and quantitative skills when they enter the upper level courses
- senior assignment is undergoing changes right now
- students would like to see more diversity at least at the level of the guest speakers
- an internship coordinator is needed
- industry/alumni advisory council should be initiated
- a graduate program does not exist now, but maybe the need for reinstating it should be considered again; a professional certificate program or an online program in international relations could also be considered
- the Evaluation Committee is recommending an evaluation of Notable Merit

Response (Denise DeGarmo)
- faculty are concentrated on the revitalization of the program
- most of the graduating students continue with a Master’s, a PhD, or enter politics
- student groups receive a lot of advising, especially for Illinois
- for the diversity issue: two female faculty are leaving the program, which is not competitive in terms of salary
- the internship program is centralized
Wendy Shaw:
- the service load for this department is not heavier than for any other department
- CAS puts a lot of value in the continuation of travel study initiatives; maybe CAS will be able to secure funding through its Foundation
- concerning the fact that faculty in the Political Studies program have offices in different parts of Peck Hall, it is known that some faculty would like to be closer to other departments’ faculty for more interdisciplinary interactions

Jeff Sabby: would the faculty of this department like to be located all in one place?
Denise DeGarmo: yes, we would like to be together, but we also value opportunities to talk to other faculty

Considerations
Jeff Sabby:
Motion to vote for the standing rating “In Good Standing” for the Political Studies program
Approved (18; 0; 0)
Motion to vote for the enrollment rating “Sustainable at Present Levels”
Approved (18; 0; 0)
Motion to vote for the retention/completion rating “Satisfactory”
Approved (18; 0; 0)
- losing two tenured faculty (out of 9) is difficult
- program is trying to implement recommendations

8. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn: Z. Agustin; second: A. Flaherty
Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted for review by:
Dr. Sorin Nastasia (Department of Applied Communication Studies)
Secretary to FSCC