Approved Minutes of CETL Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: May 7, 2012         12:00 – 12:50 PM
Swenson Hall 2074 – CETL Seminar Room

PRESENT: Karl Bahm, Hilary Fezzey, Vicki Madison, Brent Notbohm, and Heather Kahler
STAFF: Suzanne Griffith (Coordinator of First Year Seminars)

ABSENT: Maria Cuzzo, Mickey Fitch, and Virginia Donovan, and recorder Emily Levings.

1. Members reviewed the Minutes and moved (HF/VM) for Approval. Unanimously approved.
2. Suzanne updated the members on First Year Seminar –
   a. EXPO tomorrow
   b. FYS Instructors working session Monday May 21, 2012
   c. As of this morning the addition of Swimming with the Sharks with Kay Biga from DBE was approved for fall and Xingbo Li’s Experiencing Chinese Culture will also be part of the fall lineup. Both were included in the FYS brochure with the hope that these would be possible.
3. Enhancement Day was touched on but Suzanne did not have much to report on that. The focus will be Student Retention and Engagement. Unfortunately this is a very busy time for Student Life and Residential Life and Student Services offices and so it may be difficult to include members from these groups – but unavoidable given schedules and contracts.
4. Members asked about Lisa Larson’s position and plans to fill it. Suzanne had no new information and deferred to letting Maria provide that when she is back on campus. Members were unanimously very strong about the importance of that position and having a liaison that bridged that technology and classroom instruction divide. Members agreed that there is no one in IT who gets the “classroom picture” and no one for educators to go to that is an educator in IT. Members were adamant about the need for a face-to-face person to work with for bringing new (and newer) technology to them and their teaching. Another set of comments focused on how important it was/is that the position was part of CETL and not IT; that it needed to be seen as part of instructional development and for improving teaching and learning.
5. Discussion of this position was part of the discussion on CETL accomplishments and areas for improving. These included
   a. WEAVE being so inclusive a process and thorough – members appreciated being part of that process;
   b. Enhancement Day in January – members felt strongly that the response to the cost cutting had actually proved to be very positive and that looking inside had brought out our own strengths;
   c. Digital Storytelling had showcased faculty and student activities in a successful manner;
   d. Members suggested far fewer Coffee/Teas – those could have specific topics and be promoted and planned for. Members were interested instead with two other types of gatherings:
      i. Social Drop-Ins with unplanned topics and open to coming together to discuss pedagogy as the interest moved people; or other topics – to pick others minds on
areas of interest – but not more formal presentations where if you came you felt obligated to stay – more informal and drop-in like.

ii. Happy Hour gatherings sponsored by CETL – on or off campus – again for informal discussion and continued cross-pollination of ideas and the mixing of all educators

e. There was some discussion and concern that CETL not be stretched too thin and
f. Relatedly there was discussion that CETL not become the Administration’s way of channeling and pushing initiatives on the faculty – such as assessment. CETL ought to stay focused on Teaching and Learning, on being Student Centered. Initiatives needed to come from the ground (educators) up not from administration down.

g. Another strength mentioned is the NFO and how important that is for new faculty. This was seen as a good way for new faculty to learn about the campus and meet others outside their departments and it was crucial to the new climate on campus.
h. One new area brought up was that it would be very important for CETL to play a role in the search for the new Dean of Faculty – that the new Dean be an advocate for faculty and not for administration. Maria was mentioned as the kind of person (or even the person) to take on such a role. This lead then to a discussion about the importance of the CETL Director position and how difficult it would be to find someone such as Maria was she to move up or back.

i. Members ended with saying how positively they experienced the broadening of CETL’s scope to “all educators” and how Enhancement Day had benefited from inclusion of clarifying who should attend and who might be interested. The voice of academic staff on the Advisory has been important to CETL broader mission and its inclusivity.

6. As the meeting drew to a close members were thanked for their service and encouraged to continue on – to stay part of the conversation and an advocate for the mission and vision. There was strong sentiment expressed by members for what they enjoy and take from their role.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Suzanne Griffith.

At the Fall 2012 Opening Advisory Committee Meeting on August 27, 2012, Karl Bahm motioned for approval of the minutes of May 7, 2012, and Hilary Fezzey seconded the motion. With no changes to the report as submitted, the advisory committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.