

MAFS Minutes November 9, 2016

Agenda Item	Notes
Meeting called to order 12:20	Chair Ermek Nurkhaidarov called meeting to order at 12:20pm
Approval of October MAFS minutes	October's MAFS minutes were reviewed and approved
MAFS Spring 2017 Meeting Dares	Location: ST 204 Time: 12:20 – 1:10 Dates: 1/25 (Wed); 2/22 (Wed); 3/20 (Mon); 4/24 (Mon)
Nittany Noses	<p>Members of the HDFS club presented their plan for the Nittany Nose Project. As the Canning Events for Thon have decreased, so too has the revenue from those events. In response, the HDFS club has created a Nittany Nose event. For \$2.00, participants can purchase a Nittany Nose which will be worn on 2/14/17. It is hoped that this event will raise \$1000.00 (or more). While there will be a January campaign to raise awareness of this event, photos of those who purchased a Nittany Nose have been being compiled (including photos taken after this MAFS meeting) and will be used as part of the advertising phase of the project.</p>
Curriculum Committee	<p>Mike Doncheski provided an update of proposed courses: Psychology may begin as early as Fall 2017 if it gains the necessary approvals while Supply Chain Management would begin Fall 2018. The Curriculum Committee is currently in the reviewing process.</p> <p>The linking of courses as part of the new Gen Ed requirement was discussed with faculty being encouraged to brainstorm about possible interdisciplinary courses. Peter Dendle's email of November 8th, 'A call for volunteers for the Gen Ed Task Force' was reference as it provides background regarding linked courses as well as ways for increased support and ideas. Faculty is encouraged to read or re-read this email for more information.</p> <p>Mike Doncheski did clarify this requirement is for 6 credits if interdisciplinary or 2 linked course. Further clarification will be forthcoming as to whether such course need to be 200 level or may be at the 100 level as well.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding a variety of possible issues with linked courses including the challenges for scheduling of such courses. Also, it was noted that the Provost will have financial incentives for linked courses ready once a proposed course is approved.</p> <p>The 'Certificate' process was described: the bundling of 5 or 6 courses (15 credits) within a given program. It was offered that certificate programs do offer PSU MA graduates to 'look better' than other candidates during job interviews. Certificate programs in the Nursing Department were shared as was the use of 'stackable credentials' as stepping stones towards an Associate's degree. Mike did report that PSU is in the process of cleaning up existing certificate programs.</p>
Fall Sports Update	<p>Staci Brennan provided an update on MA fall sports. The MA golf team had great success this fall with 4 of its members being in the Division's top 10. Austin Green won the All American and All Academic Award. The Volleyball team placed second in their championship finals with 3 players earning All-Conference honors. The men's and women's soccer teams were both able to make to their respective semi-finals. Seven members of the Cross Country team had such great seasons that they were eligible to run in a National Completion in VA Beach (the weekend of 11/12/16). The men's Basketball and Wrestling seasons are now underway.</p> <p>An open discussion regarding the processes that surround the unique academic issues particular to the student-athlete followed. It was agreed that greater collaboration between</p>

	<p>coaches and faculty would improve the student-athletes' perception of their roles and responsibilities regarding making up missed academic work. Additionally, it may also help the student-athlete to be more responsible for informing faculty of their athletic schedule including any updates regarding playoff scheduling and updating faculty if they need to depart earlier than expected on 'game days'. Clarification was provided that the student-athlete is not to miss class for practice; only for games. Further, Staci was informed that there are some, not all, student-athletes who are expecting the faculty to provide them with remediation plans for missed work, rather than taking responsibility for missed materials.</p> <p>It was suggested that Staci email faculty reminders of upcoming athletic events as a means of increasing awareness and attendance. This suggestion was eventually tabled at this time as other posting strategies of athletic schedules already exist. For those interested in attending athletic completions, an early season purview of the given athletic schedule may allow the faculty member to insert said games ahead of time into their planners.</p> <p>Staci fielded these concerns and related questions and assured faculty that she has already begun addressing these issues with the coaches and staff.</p>
Athletic Committee Report:	<p>The Student Appreciation Tailgate Event is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/29/16 at 5 pm. The cheerleaders will be part of the pre-basketball game activities. Food and music to be provided; including pizza for the students at halftime of the basketball game. Dr. Achampong is encouraging all faculty (and staff) to attend as a way of showing support for our students.</p>
New Web PSU MA: Staci Grimes	<p>Staci Grimes provided an overview of, and fielded questions regarding, the new PSU MA Homepage. While many noted that the new homepage was more intuitive and user friendly, there were concerns voiced regarding the status of the "Request more information about this degree" form. Given that this area of the homepage, as a few others, are not complete yet (Staci offered that completion was yet a few days away), several faculty members expressed concern that a student might complete this 'request for more information' form thinking that it was an application. If so, the student might 'think' that they applied in time to meet the deadline, all the while missing the deadline. It was noted however, that once this form is completed, it immediately is received by staff/faculty who reply to provide further information which would include clarification of the application process and deadlines surrounding that process.</p> <p>Also yet under development are the descriptor pages for various programs. Staci noted that she is 'within days' of creating additional pages to post program information and those pages will be then available. While presently, program descriptors are not available, the templates will be forthcoming for staff as well as the arrival of other Sites pages. She does need to first make sure that each Sites page is correct.</p> <p>Spirited discussion surrounded the concerns of some faculty that they were not contacted prior to the posting of the homepage and its information. Faculty was reassured that they can meet with Staci to discuss their individual or unique concerns.</p> <p>Further discussions were focused on the use of the homepage and its audience. Is the homepage to be a repository, a marketing tool or something other. Feedback was given by Deb Collins that the homepage was designed with the student in mind: designed for how it is actually being used rather than how it was historically being used: aka the homepage is being accessed by mobile devices more often than not.</p> <p>More information will be available about the PSU MA home page as it moves through completion. Faculty are encouraged to contact Staci if they have questions or concerns.</p>

Part time Faculty Evaluations	Linghao Zhong presented an update on the evaluation process of part time faculty. Currently there are 38-part time faculty members. Each is up for review every 4 semesters. However, there is a lack of clarity regarding the process to complete the evaluation. Given the need for this to become more transparent and consistent, Linghao will be obtaining, and then sharing, more information with faculty during a subsequent MAFS meeting
IT Survey	Kira Hamman reminded faculty that if they haven't already done so, to please complete the IT survey. Kira will be emailing a subsequent reminder
Faculty Update	Peter Linehan is presently in the Long Term Acute Care section of Holy Spirit Hospital with pending plans to soon return home.
Meeting adjourned	At 1:17 pm. MAFS meeting adjourned.