Mont Alto Faculty Senate minutes, December 9, 2015

Meeting started by Chair Somjit Barat at 2:03 pm.

First speaker was Diane Chamberlin, who gave an admissions update. Enrollment is up 12%: 407 applications for fall 2016 (there were 364 same time last year). Offers are down, basically because implementation of LionPATH has huge learning curve and the office is behind in review of applications. It is expected that the offer total will rise shortly. A big part of the expected increase is that nuursing PT and OT offers will be extended in January.

Paid accepts are level from the previous year (13-14) and for spring 2016, there are 78 applications, 39 offers extended, 20 accepted and 24 have not gotten in all paperwork. It is expected that several of these will defer to the fall.

The office would like to make faculty aware of ongoing campus visits by a variety of groups: for example, North Hagerstown was on campus last week with a group of about 50 students and Philadelphia CRC was on campus the day of the meeting. Faculty should watch for these groups and welcome them to campus.

A question was asked about the grade level of the visiting students. North Hagerstown’s group was believed to be 11th graders. Another question asked about the program sponsoring the visits, which is a national program for students exploring the college option. Washington County has implemented the program in four districts.

Yesterday, the office started planning a visit from Fulton County schools. The visit was instigated by a road trip of Mont Alto representatives to the class, which included students interested in computer education. The class asked to visit campus for an entire day, which is unusual in that most groups are only one campus for a few hours.

An update on virtual tour revealed that there have been 1400 visits and the office is seeing follow through clicks to the visit campus page. These stats and more information will be distributed in the annual report coming out in a few weeks. Faculty are encourage to read the report and feedback: Is there appropriate information? Is the information understandable? All feedback is welcome.

Finally, faculty should reserve April 2 on calendar. This date will feature the open house and offer reception on the same day; 1 in morning and 1 in the afternoon. Previously, the events were held on separate days, so faculty will not have to travel to campus on multiple weekends with the new schedule.

Jackie Schwab was next to speak, and prefaced her remarks with thanking organizers of the holiday party and sharing several pictures from the event.

She then discussed implementing the general education changes; pointing out that the skills domain is now called “Foundation” and that faculty should not that several other terms have changed. The campus needs to implement the integration courses. The first step will be to come up with courses that have content from two different domains. For example, Peter Dendle (English 015) and Kira Hamman (Stat100) teamed up this semester as part of a trial run. The experiment has proven to be successful in that the research and writing matched with quantitative skills resulting in a learning experience that is more than the sum of its parts. The results showed great student understanding in both sections. The feedback was opposite expectations: students indicated a desire for more math in English and more English in the math course.

To meet the new integration requirements, there are 3 options. Two classes can be offered during the same semester or one in the fall term and one in the spring term, as long as they are labeled as connected. Faculty can pair up existing courses or create new ones.

The timeline for moving forward is based on Mike Doncheski’s recollection of a verbal conversation since nothing concrete can be found online for confirmation. For the Spring 2016 semester, no idea is too crazy to be considered. In the fall 2016 semester, the suggestions can be looked over and the campus can submit proposals during the 2017-18 academic year. The rollout is expected in the fall of 2018.

Faculty can find someone you may want to collaborate, with the hope that members will take the opportunity to explore and try new things. Normally, the campus is constrained to keep things separated. But we now we have a mandate to be creative and try things so faculty should take advantage of the opportunity.

A discussion ensued about qualifications of faculty leading particular courses. Can a marketing professor teach another subject he would not normally be qualified for? The linked courses would have qualified people teaching each aspect of the domain, according to Doncheski. Collaboration is the key. It was also pointed out that the integrated courses can be campus specific. Another point is that existing class such as Math21 can be tailored to various disciplines such as nursing or forestry.

The hope is a that a group of people from the Mont Alto campus will want to get together and work out suggestions. So, should MAFS create an official group to address this area?

Chair Barat broke into the conversation to announce that all MAFS meetings will need to finish by 2:50 pm in order to avoid infringing on a class coming into the meeting room. The discussion turned to committee updates.

Diversity Updates reported a Q and A was held in Wiestling with a number of students staying after the program for more conversation. The next event is African acrobats coming to campus on Feb. 17, which is open to campus and the public. One other thing they are working on is a DVD showing of the musical Hairspray for April in Wiestling.

John Henry briefly spoke of the UFS report and noted some changes that were made: ETM requirements, late drop, students can only attempt course 3 times and are not permitted after the third attempts, and a changed drop period. All changes are coming about because of LionPATH.

Robin Yaure then gave a Faculty Affairs update. It was noted there is not an automatic approval because of shrinking budgets and that once all money allotted, it’s gone. It is the responsibility of the faculty to submit correct requests as incorrect documentation will delay reimbursement. This causes frustration on both ends of the process, so take note of the correct submission requirements.

\*\*I have included a follow-up message sent out by Robin after the meeting was held to clarify a few points that were touched on at the meeting:

1. Make sure to get comparable airfare using the Penn State travel site ([http://travel.psu.edu](http://travel.psu.edu/)) if you do not use PSU to book your flight so that you can show you are not spending more than the comparable flight. I verified this with Charlene who checked with Ron Swope that the campus is asking that we do this.

2.      Do not book your flight/hotel/etc. as a bundle through a site such as Expedia since it complicates your reimbursement and seems to load up costs that are not necessary.

3.      Make sure to have a documented expense for each line item in your request (e.g., cut and paste the mileage from campus to the airport (or from home, whichever is less) since not doing this will delay your approval. It is much easier if you put all of your documents in one file rather than multiple files.

4.      Check the hotel per diem if you are travelling outside of the US through [http://guru.psu.edu](http://guru.psu.edu/)

5.      You do not need to submit receipts for meals. Go to the Guru site and get the per diem rate for CONUS for travel within the US and for OCONUS for travel outside of the US.

  We have now approved $7664 for the Professional Development Fund (out of $15000) and $932.89 for the Teaching Support Fund (out of $1500) so make sure to get your requests in soon since once this funding it out, it is out and no further travel or teaching support can be provided by the committee until next year (which only covers travel/teaching stuff for the next fiscal year).

Mike Doncheski alerted faculty that an e-mail will be forthcoming from Charlene about FAR. As a reminder, committee service is a requirement. If you are not a participating member of a committee, do not list it on your FAR. Participation involves making contributions to achieve the goals of the committee and not necessarily attending all meetings.

A reminder was also given about the SRTEs and the fact that a mobile link is now available to students to complete the class reviews. A question was asked about when faculty can view the feedback. It should be available for faculty on Angel shortly after the closing date.

The last announcement from Chair Somjit Barat was happy birthday wishes to Robin Yaure.

The meeting finished at 2:49 pm.