Academic Standards Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday 9/26

Members Attending: Amy Parsons, Dave Van Buren (ex-officio), Sheryl Wills, Phil Sealy, Jeff Huebschman, Andrew Pawl (chair)

Guests Attending: Kayla Day, Megan Goodney

Meeting called to order 4:10

1. Amy Parsons selected as recording secretary.

2. Approval of minutes from meeting on 9/12. Sheryl Wills moves, second by Phil Sealy. Approved unanimously without discussion.

3. General review of what kind of student data we have access to (such as ACT score data). A discussion about how we could use data with more useful breakdown by schools and disciplines, the correlation between ACT placement scores and overall academic success.

   Andrew Pawl distributed a packet of available data about student test scores, ranking in high school courses, comparisons between UW campuses, etc. General discussion over our concerns: are our standards dropping? How can we track success of students with low ACT scores over time? Has higher enrollment at UWP meant lower standards (data suggests this is not the case).

   Phil Sealy asks question: are we still charged by the Academic Senate to look into grade inflation. Consensus is that if so, we need much better data.

4. Discussion of the mission of the Academic Standards Committee
   A) Early part of mission was to review General Education courses, which we no longer do. This has been changed at the level of the committee itself, but to change it at the level of the bylaws requires vote from Faculty Senate and General Faculty. In addition, the UUCC and other bodies now do Gen Ed review.
   B) Suggestion that committee will investigate procedure for future motion to change bylaws.
   C) Discussion about how increased pressure of more students and fewer faculty might affect academic standards. Possibility that campus might change to program by program admissions. Consensus that our committee should be part of those discussions.
   D) Discussion of advocating replacing “data mart” with some other system. Additional discussion of the committee coming up with a metrics for a web query that would help us (and faculty at large) accomplish specific goals.

5. Summation of short term goals:
   A) find out about procedures to go to Faculty Senate about bylaws
   B) find out about web query system related to our mission
   C) members will ask other faculty: what kind of data to faculty need in terms of data for getting a picture of the standards in individual departments
   D) investigate how to get good data for grade averages

6. Meeting adjourned 4:55