

## **TWU Undergraduate Council**

**March 30, 2009**

### **Minutes**

Members present: Karen Dunlap, David Rylander, Lybeth Hodges, , Stoerm Anderson, Bobbie Ferrell, Allen Waldo, Beth Yelverton (for Guy Litton), Joni Jensen, Kendyll Castles, Pat Devereaux, Mahmoud Sadri, Patricia Holden-Huchton, Roger Shipley, Don Edwards, Gloria Byrd, Sally Lambert, and Penny Hanstein

Ex Officio members and Guests present: Judith Bean, Carol Kominski and Teresa Mauk.

Members not present: Peggy Landrum, Ronald Fannin, Kay Marsh, Terry Senne, AnaLouise Keating, Richard Sheardy, Jordan Fuchs, Kim Wilson Booker, and Annastagia Zachry.

1. Welcome by David Rylander, Chair of Committee.
2. Minutes were approved without objections.
3. Judith Bean reported on the need to develop a response to the Fall 2008 Math CAAP test results. For example, UNT requires a math competency test prior to graduation for any student who makes a D in math. Our core requires a C average but does not require certain grades for math. Should a committee be established to look at this issue? Dr. Bean recalled when THEA was a graduation requirement and how there were some students who could not pass THEA. Penny Hanstein requested specific data on which students failed the CAAP test. Judith Bean suggested that MATH 1013, a recent measure, may already be addressing this issue but was not measured in the CAAP test. Allen Waldo questioned which test would be used; what content would be tested.

Carol Kominski provided a Math CAAP handout stating that in both Fall 2004 and Fall 2008, TWU is slightly below the national norm. She questioned how interested students are in testing and that a better reward might be established to produce more accurate results. Dr. Kominski asked the Council: is this the assessment test you want to use? Does it measure core content? Does it given enough diagnostics? Allen Waldo questioned if the test areas aligned with Texas high school math content. Mahmoud Sadri mentioned that students feel pressured and don't want to test in math; they need to have in incentive.

Another possibility would be to incorporate math core competencies into upper-level curriculum. Penny Hanstein expressed concern about transfer deficiencies and what issues exist in our curriculum. There was a general discussion about the availability of the test award certificates to students. Dr. Kominski expressed a preference for an online test with instant results, noting that currently distance education students aren't tested. Discussion followed of the lack of "institutionalization" of these assessment tests and talk of an assessment day, attendance issues.

David Rylander is referring this discussion to the assessment committee who will come back to the Council with options. Finally, Carol Kominski urged faculty to take the CAAP test and will pay for instructors who want to take it.

#### 4. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Program Review Committee:** The committee received the new Teacher Education degree plans but has not yet met to review them.
- b. **Course Review Committees:**
  - Oral Communication Subcommittee-**  
No courses reviewed at this time.
  - Global Perspectives Subcommittee-**  
Lybeth Hodges spoke for SOWK 1403 which was not recommended because the syllabus does not meet the criteria.
  - Multicultural / Women's Studies Subcommittee-**  
No courses reviewed at this time.
- c. **Assessment Committee:** Judith Bean reported on a Coordinating Board email and memo regarding a rule change to match core assessment with SACS inspection years. This gives TWU a Fall 2010 deadline to have course-embedded assessments completed for all TWU core. Oral Communications and Computer Literacy will have to be assessed in 2009-2010. Additionally, there is a new rule for the Voluntary System of Accountability that 200 freshmen and 200 nearly graduating seniors will need to be tested.
- d. **Retention Committee:** Judith Bean reported that her office found six or eight majors have the majority of students. She has met with the School of Management and Teacher Education to develop a four part plan (handout). She is working with these departments for a May 1 deadline of implementation and results. The plan is to start with departments with the largest enrollments and then go through the list.
- e. **NSSE Taskforce:** Judith Bean reported that communication with students are a struggle. Marketing suggests students go where they see added-value: food, etc. the library uses blogs. There is a Virtual Student Center in Blackboard but most students don't know about it. Dr. Bean is pursuing permission to guide students to this site. The faculty are concerned about students not seeing faculty advisers. Judith Bean recommended use of all kinds of media but we need to know what gets through and how do students want to be communicated with. Penny Hanstein mentioned that when her department can't reach students, they turn to social networking sites (facebook, myspace).

7. **Member Elections.** David Rylander mentioned members whose terms end this spring: Kay Marsh, Guy Litton, Joni Jensen, David Rylander, AnaLouise Keating, Terry Senne, Ron Fannin, Academic Council Rep, Council of Chairs Rep, Faculty Senate Rep, and the two student representatives. Two consecutive terms are allowed. Please let your Dean know if you are interested in re-election.

8. Don Edwards addressed the catalog policy for Graduation Honors Recognition. His concern was that for transfer students graduation from TWU only requires 30 hours, but the Honors Recognition policy requires 45 hours. UNT, Midwestern and A&M Commerce only require 30 hours for honors recognition. He noted that we do look at all the coursework to determine gpa. Dr. Edwards moved that the Council recommend

residency requirements for Graduation Honors Recognition change from 45 hours to 30 hours. Lybeth Hodges seconded the motion. General discussion followed. The policy could be effective immediately but might not reflect on commencement program. The council voted 13 in favor and 0 opposed. The motion passed. Judith Bean will present the request to the Academic Council on March 31, 2009.

7. With no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.