Westfield State University
Curriculum Committee Minutes for December 1, 2011

In attendance: Enrique Morales-Diaz, Gabriel Aquino, Elizabeth Starr, John Ohotnicky, Volker Ecke, Diane Prusank, Eric Bressler, Joe Camilleri, Jennifer DiGrazia, Emily Todd, Supriya Sarnikar, Brian Conz, Marsha Marotta, David Shapleigh, Mary Brown-Bonacci
Non-Members: Julian Fleron, Karin Vorwerk

Chair’s Report:

- Curriculum Committee was not officially convened, as it took awhile to get quorum
- ROCCC was on the agenda
  1. One member suggested that as we think about how to proceed with ROCCC, we keep in mind impending initiatives and program changes. For example, Governor Freeland us proposing that WSU become a LEAP school
  2. One member suggested that we begin our discussion by considering whether our desire to make change is a result of a structural problem with the current common CORE, or a resource issue (too few resources—time, money). It was argued that changing the structure of the CORE doesn’t address the problem of too few resources
  3. One member suggested that perhaps we shouldn’t look at ROCCC as replacing the current CORE, but as recommending/proposing a different approach to the CORE. We discussed the matrix and it was suggested that one way to approach the matrix included in ROCCC might be to identify how current CORE courses achieve skills/competencies/values promoted by ROCCC
  4. One member voiced concerns with the procedures those who drafted ROCCC followed to gather data
  5. Julian Fleron provided some institutional/contextual information: he said that he process used to create the current CORE had been exhaustive and that it was meant to be a “living, breathing CORE” but there was so much work required that it solidified and as a result, there have been remarkably few changes since
  6. Karin Vorwerk further explained that three years of meetings and writing sessions had gone into drafting ROCCC. She suggested that what came out of the review was a need for student engagement in learning, for students to understand and recognize connections across disciplines, not only to “work for their major” through the current CORE
  7. We discussed that we need to attend to the big picture of the CORE and encouraged us to consider: Do we endorse the principles/goals/values presented by ROCCC? We discussed looking at problems with the current CORE outcomes and suggested that maybe we look at those as a way to determine how ROCCC might be useful/helpful as a launching point for revising the CORE
  8. We moved to discuss the ROCCC recommendations for Composition classes. It was moved that “We endorse changes to Comp I and Comp II using the first and second bullet points outlined in ROCCC.” We then started to discuss the resource issue/recommendation of 12-15 students/class.
  9. One member then said that we deciding how to allocate our resources for students. They will still need to take 120 credits throughout their education at WSU. The meeting closed without adjournment or a vote on the motion.