

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
School Council
October 20, 2009
2:00pm - 4:00pm

In Attendance:

J. Bray, D. Coker-Kolo, B. David, J. Lombardi, J. Ward, L. West, E. Rohena, H. Tuleya-Payne, B. Hatfield

Review of Notes

The notes from October 6, 2009 were reviewed and approved with one minor addition.

Announcements

Faculty textbook adoption. The Dean relayed her appreciation for the positive response to the new program by the School of Education Dept. Chairs and support staff. Cyndi Stehli has been trained on the new web-based textbook adoption system as well, and will serve as back up for the department support personnel.

Homecoming. School of Education alumni post-parade event will be held in the lobby of Stayer Hall this year. The Dean has another work engagement that morning, and requested that department volunteers be identified to attend the homecoming event.

Background Checks. Chairs were asked to provide lists of the adjuncts they expect to use for the Spring 2010 semester. Human Resources will be overseeing background checks of these people.

Secretary of State Speech

Arne Duncan has been giving speeches recently, on what he views as serious inadequacies in teacher preparation programs. He has stated that most programs rely too heavily on educational theory and suffer from a lack of meaningful clinical experience. Dean Bray will broadcast his speech from Columbia University's Teachers College on Thursday 10/22/2009, in Stayer Hall MPR. Anyone interested is welcome. Previous speeches are available on the AACTE website.

Curricular Mapping

Instead of joining a future SoE School Council meeting on the topic of curricular mapping, Dr. Bray will ask Lisa Shibley to meet individually with departments. Curricular mapping is a requirement for our Middle States review, where we must show alignment between our courses and the appropriate program, department, and University outcomes.

Campus Climate Survey

Dr. Coker-Kolo distributed a handout that shows categorized details of the 775 responses received on the Campus Climate Survey. Overall, 72% of the responders indicated that they were 'comfortable' or 'very comfortable' with the climate at Millersville University. The executive summary is available on Social Equity's website. The results will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting.

Guest: Dr. Beverly Schneller, General Education Coordinator.

Dr. Schneller joined the group to discuss her new role as Gen Ed Coordinator and seek input from the group. She brings a new point of view to this position, since she is Chair of the department that offers the most Gen Ed classes on campus.

Questions raised:

- Class sizes for 'W' courses; has anyone has considered rewriting the definition of a Writing course?
- How can we help to assure that Transfer students can meet all of the requirements?
- Why can't a "P" course also be a "W" course?

Dr. Schneller encouraged everyone to look at the courses offered by their departments to see if any might be able to be included with the Diversity, Perspectives, or UNIV 103 designations. For the future of the Gen Ed program, Dr. Schneller hopes that they will be able to streamline the G1-G2-G3 block from 50+ credits down to 36-42. A discussion followed on the importance of departmental investment in the University's general education program. Departments will hopefully recognize the importance of this program, and be willing to sacrifice class size or course rotation to fit in a new Gen Ed or UNIV 103 course; however, it was recognized that complement and program requirements often restrain the ability of departments to assist in meeting this goal.

School Council adjourned at 4:15 p.m.