

## **Faculty Council/Learning Council Joint Meeting**

**April 11, 2008**

### **In Attendance:**

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|---|---|
| Mary Brau (FC/IRAP)                     | Don McNair (FC/OISS)                      |
| Marv Clemons (SAC)                      | Katie Morrison-Graham (Guest/SLI)         |
| Susie Cousar (Guest/Sustainability)     | Ken Murdoff (LC)                          |
| Roma Cusimano (LC)                      | Mary Parthemer (Guest/Counseling)         |
| Dennis Gilbert (FC)                     | Tamara Pinkas (LC)                        |
| Anthony Hampton (FC)                    | Bert Pooth (FC)                           |
| Jennifer Hayward (Guest/Sustainability) | Cathie Reschke (LC)                       |
| Sharon Kimble (FC/Business)             | Margaret Robertson (Guest/Sustainability) |
| Vicky Kirkpatrick (FC/Math)             | Russell Shitabata (FC)                    |
| Michel Kovcholovsky (FC/Math)           | Ken Zimmerman (LC)                        |

### **Opening Remarks by Council Chairs**

Everyone introduced themselves. Tamara Pinkas, chair of the Learning Council, said that the purpose of having this meeting was to expedite the council's time and guests. It is important that both councils know about the different projects happening on campus. Larry Scott, co-chair of Faculty Council, mentioned that this is not a regular meeting but an information meeting, so Faculty Council will be back to their regular agenda at their next meeting. Larry appreciates the folks involved for coming out.

Each presenter will have 15 minutes total, with 5 minutes for question and answer. The presenter will announce if they have written material to be distributed. There is some flex time at the end of the meeting, so there is an opportunity to extend 5 minutes for each presenter.

### **Susie Cousar – Sustainability in Instruction, Jennifer Hayward - Sustainability in Facilities & Margaret Robertson**

Susie is here to present on sustainability in instruction, presenting along with Jennifer Hayward and Margaret Robertson; because what they do is all tied like fabric together. They distributed a handout on Sustainability at Lane: A Brief History. Susie talked about some of their accomplishments which include: 1. The core value adoptions on sustainability, 2. 100 hours given to them by SLI for curriculum sustainability, and a push to infuse sustainability around curriculum. They are a finalist in a grant from EPA which would pay for a trainer to train a number of staff to eventually have broad based sustainability. 3. Water conservation project, AAS degree in water conservation in summer 2008, brochure passed around. 4. Another Meyer grant for sustainable environment, with Lane faculty eligible to apply for the grant every year. Think about ways that faculty can incorporate sustainability, probably next January, and if anyone would like more information contact Jennifer. Please promote this in your departments, so that more people can take advantage of this.

The main reason that they are all here is to work on a green stamp approval process. A form was made for this, which was approved by the sustainability committee (on the back of the handout), which would mean that courses would have to have 50% sustainability content. This would be another way to get faculty to get courses infused with sustainability, and the course of studies would go into the catalog. These courses could go into future AAS degrees and coordinator. Mary Brau pointed out that a course of study is possible without doing anything terribly involved with the state. Students could come away with environmental studies program completed after

two years. The only model we have now is the Oregon transfer module, but things at the state level are changing. They are also working on an AAS degree for people studying to be sustainability coordinators. This would be an interdisciplinary degree, bringing together the economic and environmental side along with technological competency. Most of the program can be put together with courses already existing. Hope to build something that looks like a pathway, so students can move from AAS into a 4-year degree.

Mary Spilde convened a sustainability summit to bring together sustainability fans, around 2-3 months ago, to bring together shared understanding and build momentum. They realized that many of them have been working for a long time on the idea of a sustainability center, with a vision statement to nurture, integrate, and promote sustainability awareness. They envisioned quite a broad multi-disciplinary resource center that all kind of people in Lane County could turn to for all kinds of help. Not a new building, but a networking place where we can offer courses and help for the community; service learning, tool library, and learning gardening. This is a very exciting idea.

Jennifer reviewed the three sustainability processes from sustainability operations: 1. Climate commitment signed about a year ago, 2. Becoming carbon neutral, and 3. Look at all of our green house gas emissions. Anna Scott is the Lane energy analyst. We want to invest in energy, with 10% of our electricity renewable energy, and 25% of Cottage Grove renewable. Installations on the science building paid for energy management savings fund, which students installed. Another installation near the child care buildings will be visual and teach children about renewable energy.

Jennifer said that our recycling program is a part of the American college climate recycling mania contest. We are participating with 82 other colleges and universities participating to measure the amount of trash, and we are in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Thanks to everyone for recycling. They want to consolidate all recycling into one place, so they are doing some remodeling between buildings 9 and 10, and then maybe the rate would go from 60% to 80%. There is also a collaboration between operations and instruction in the learning garden behind the childcare program, which was student initiated. Students are learning about gardening and selling food at food service. There is another great project that the history club was doing with biodiesel from the kitchen grease to heat water for the boilers, but it is on hold now because of the Fire Dept.

Jennifer stated that she would like our feedback on the draft Application for Sustainability Course Status form, which she would like to make an official document. First step is to get courses green stamped. Suggestion to use 10-20% instead of 50%, these are not the same as diversity classes. Sustainability is critical thinking, need to flesh out what is included in the concept. Instead of using 50% as the measurement use words like central focus. Draw parallels to cultural requirement and ask faculty to submit new courses to respond to how they meet guidelines. Can take already existing classes and teach the class through a particular lens. Tamara is committed to have further discussions at the council level on this document. She will add the sustainability course status document to the agenda on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Lane is the host for a national conference on sustainability next week, with lots of excellent workshops and special key note speakers. Everyone is welcome to come. There is still space for student volunteers. The half price cost is \$120.00 for two days for Lane employees, and \$60.00 for one day.

Margaret discussed the issue of workload and release time. Susie is the Sustainability and Learning Coordinator which she does on top of her full-time job, which she had one term off for release time, but now volunteers. This is a huge amount of work, and we thank Susie for her very hard work on this. This is a tough issue, and could be raised as a systemic issue on this campus of how to sustain education on this campus. These issues take grass roots activism to effect change globally, which isn't going to be paid. The presenters were recognized for their incredible work. Faculty Council and Learning Council are aware that this work affects every discipline on campus.

### **Stan Taylor – Peace Initiative**

Stan Taylor reported that the idea for a peace center came about a few years ago. This year they were able to award chair funds that helped seed the beginning of the peace center. It is formed around the idea that peace is not in absence of violence, it is based upon issues of justice, which provides the framework. The idea was to have speakers, events, film series, and to put on a peace conference in February/March with keynote speakers. The plan was to have a place where people from different parts of the peace community could come together at a neutral site and have a dialog. Most of the conference was videotaped, and will be in the library and broadcast on c-span radio. National recognition is pretty extraordinary for a first year event. The hope is to take these produced materials and use it for foundation campaign to generate recurring sources of funds for the peace center over time. Another step is to begin forming a committee that will work for peace studies degrees and certificates, identifying classes that already exist to encourage a focus through the peace study lens. Kathy Reschke asked if the peace conference media could be accessible for students with a hearing loss, and if not, she would be willing to look into providing this through Disability Services. The peace conference did not make enough money, so they are trying to stretch the chair fund award over multiple years. Oregon State does have a peace studies program, U of O doesn't, and some community colleges do as well; but not as broad as Lane, so we are breaking new ground. There are a number of programs throughout the country that overlap the environmental and social justice movements. Stan was appreciated and thanked for coming to the meeting.

### **Mary Parthemer – SAGA**

Mary Parthemer is here to represent the Success and Goal Attainment Committee, which has been in some form since 2001, and became SAGA in 2003-04. Mary distributed a SAGA Update Report handout. The intent is around strengthening and coordinating student success efforts at Lane. They have been working on a number of initiatives since 2003, and they developed six retention best practices that were first identified through literature review. Fast Lane to Success is a first-term learning community offered to new students in writing and College Success classes. Advising in College Success gets them closer to deciding on a major, peer mentors in classrooms and learning communities, and utilize support services. Next fall there will be a Math Fast Lane class. One section of Math 60 for new students and those students will be enrolled in College Success classes. All students will then move into College Success using a two term learning community. They looked at two years of data for Fast Lane students, and the course completion rates are higher. Another effort is to integrate On Course curriculum into other classes. On Course is a student empowerment model where students are in charge of their success. In 2002-03 there was one class of College Success and three telecourses, and this year there is over 30. Fast Lane college students are a part of another Title III grant looking at first year experience for students.

Another big effort that has been going on is trying to get alignment in terms of academic standards. There are two very different systems at Lane now, one for students who get financial

aid and one for students who don't. The system is very sensitive for those students who have financial aid, and not sensitive at all when students don't have aid. Students can go term after term not passing classes, maybe completing only 25% of their classes, and never get caught in the system. They are working with financial aid, enrollment services, and counseling to align the two systems. Student preparedness is another big issue. There will be a workshop at the spring conference about the student's right to succeed vs. freedom to fail. There are a number of practices and policies that fall on allowing students the freedom to fail. We have placement tests, but students can choose to take whatever courses they want. Results of a validity study for placement tests should be coming any day now. Looking across the country we need to be on the side of the right to succeed, and what students need to be successful. There are several variations on supplemental instruction in gatekeeper courses. Not just talking about placement tests, but encouraging student to take writing when they first start because it is a cornerstone.

Advising is one of the best practices. How to redesign services given the situation with staffing in a way to provide best practices. We want to get to a place where orientation is provided. They are trying to communicate that retention is everyone's responsibility. Hope a number of people will come to the workshop at the spring in-service. Dennis encouraged the SAGA committee to re-examine best practices of 2008 and incorporate those, such as gatekeeper courses not taught by part-time faculty. Kathy mentioned that she loved the material by Skip Downing, and hoped they can provide materials in different modes. Larry said that the On Course newsletter is free, and a wonderful resources to use in the classroom. Mary was thanked for presenting all these updates.

### **Katie Morrison-Graham – SLI**

Katie Morrison-Graham distributed a SLI Update Report handout. Members are down in terms of full committee members, they are one manager and three faculty short. The MOA has not been formally renewed, but they decided to continue with the current group and budget.

SLI continues to support the mainstream project, sponsoring three project teams, and asked by the Instructional Redesign Taskforce to look at different projects that they sited that the college should pursue and take those on.

Learning Communities and Service Learning curriculum support, down from what they used to do. Helped fund curriculum development support for language program. Some of the budget is for M&S for these groups. It has been a maintenance year for all of their projects. They tried to cut down the amount that they funded for curriculum development.

Incubation Projects: 1. First year experience (FYRED UP!) E-Portfolio project. Anne McGrail has been evaluating how this has been working. There is a barrier with the current technology and they need a port system. Moodle is not a good platform. E-Portfolio is a great learning tool for students. Dennis suggested a portal that they use for science educational materials may be useful. 2. Supplemental Studies, was supplemental instruction, currently supporting 100 hours of coordination time for Liz Coleman with the support of two SI courses. Current reports from this group are looking at supplemental costs. 3. Sustainability and Learning project provides release time for Susie, funding the training workshop, and curriculum development.

New Projects: \$9000.00 of seed money to get started on new projects. Instructional Redesign projects, 6 proposals sent out and will be evaluating these at the end of the month.

Future Plans: 1. End of the year meeting with sponsored projects, 2. On-going assessment rubrics, 3. Finalize charter for SLI. 4. Hoping to keep the founding principles of SLI, waiting to see what will happen.

Discussion on maintaining SLI and moving it out of contractual agreement would change the dynamics of the faculty led principle. We have worked on getting this mainstreamed, an innovation center that maintains its principles. In the last five years there has only briefly been a full complement of faculty on SLI. Comment that all faculty groups should report regularly to Faculty Council so that they are kept updated. The college did not notify the union that they weren't going to continue MOA, therefore the committee continues. Tamara personally feels that SLI has supported projects that should have been mainstreamed, so now the innovative group has diminished over time. Very disappointed to see innovation funds go to Service Learning and Learning Communities.

**Etc.**

This meeting was a good idea for cross fertilization of ideas. There needs to be a place to share, so don't let information stay here, other governing councils need to hear this information. This sharing reflects the symbiotic relationship between councils.