

**Academic Assembly  
October 19, 2009**

MINUTES

**Present:** Nalini Iyer, John Strait, David Arnesen, Niranjan Chipalkatti, Karen Feldt, Paul Fontana, Mary Graham, Francisco Guerrero, Valerie Lesniak, David Neel, Tracey Pepper, Kristen Shuyler, Jennifer Sorensen, Jean Tang, John Weaver, Flora Wilson Bridges, Jason Wirth, Isiaah Crawford, Charles Lawrence, Jacquelyn Miller, McKenzie Weber

**Absent:** Katherine Raichle, Nina Valerio

**Guests:** Soon Beng Yeap, Assistant VP of Marketing & Communication, along with Mike Thee, Internal Communications Coordinator/Editor, Broadway&Madison

**1) Welcome**

**2) Review of Minutes**

**Action Item:** Present Assembly members unanimously approved minutes from October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**3) New University Communication Plan, Soon Beng Yeap with Mike Thee**

- a) Soon Beng Yeap along with Mike Thee joined Academic Assembly to present and receive feedback on the development of a new university communication plan including the transfer of Broadway&Madison to online.
- b) Marketing & Communications (MarCom) has been working with a beta version of the website in construction.
- c) The current version of Broadway&Madison (B&M) is produced bi-weekly for faculty and staff. It is a four page, black and white production.
  - i) Last year, printing of the B&M totaled 134,640 sheets of paper.
- d) New Plan: B&M available as an Online Website "The Commons"
  - i) Guiding principles include timely, inclusive, community-driven and community-building, a gathering place online for faculty/staff.
  - ii) An example of desired features were the ability to forward articles, possibility for classifieds, color photos, etc.
  - iii) This site would be publicly accessible, except for classifieds and comments to articles would be password protected.
  - iv) This site would complement the SU home page, and there would be some replication, but the "Commons" would be geared toward faculty/staff.
  - v) Campus announcements included on this page could include speakers or events that may not make it to the general SU home page.

- e) Timeline:
  - i) October 26: One more issue of the print version of B&M will be distributed.
  - ii) Late October: announcement of the transition and current beta-version in the process.
  - iii) Early November: launch of beta-version.
  - iv) Mid-November: official hard launch of the new site.

#### 4) Committee Appointments

- a) Faculty Handbook Revision Committee
  - i) Two positions on the committee need to be elected on my Academic Assembly.

**Action Item:** Present Assembly members unanimously approved the renewal of Chris Rideout's appointment to this committee. He will serve an additional term.

**Action Item:** Present Assembly members unanimously approved David Arnesen to serve on this committee for a regular term of three years concluding fall 2012.

- ii) Provost will provide two appointments to this committee.

- b) Program Review Committee
  - i) In the process of finding a way to adapt to the new seven-year cycle of accreditation. This fall, John Strait will present a description of the "Curriculum Committee" creating two subcommittees.
    - (1) New Programs, look at new degrees, not minors or certificates (unless at the Provost's discretion)
    - (2) Existing Program Reviews
  - ii) Currently this committee needs three members appointed by Academic Assembly. Nominations to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 5) German minor, Nalini Iyer

- a) German is resource strapped, concerned about the termination of German minor. A faculty member approached Nalini about bringing this concern to Academic Assembly.
  - i) Is this a Arts & Sciences issue, or University-wide? Would it be appropriate for German to visit and discuss this concern with the Assembly.
- b) Provost Isiaah Crawford recommendation
  - i) Faculty member to take this concern to the Dean, go through the process within the College of Arts & Sciences.
  - ii) Generally, it is important to look at a department/program and , make sure the quality we offer meets a certain standard.
  - iii) Another thing to look at, where are our resources as the years go by and programs shift and change?

**Action Item:** Nalini will communicate with faculty member and suggest that the issue of German Minor be resolved within department and college. However, Assembly may return to this program concern at a later date if the matter does not get addressed at college level.

## **6) Enrollment Management, Isiaah Crawford**

- a) Providing a response to the article in Seattle Times released on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- b) SU is entering into this Academic Year with confidence in our mission.
- c) The departure of the Dean of Admissions had nothing to do with the change in our direction. What was mentioned in this article is far away from our intentions of our University.
- d) Noel-Levitz is here to help us continue on our path and achieve and enhance our policies and procedures to operate in the way we have in accordance with our mission.
  - i) Noel-Levitz works for us and will take their direction from us, not deviating from who and what we are.
- e) A statement will be released from the Provost to the broader University community regarding this situation.
- f) SU is assuring that constituencies, internal and external, know where we stand in this situation.

## **7) Core Curriculum Renewal Process**

- a) With the support of the Academic Strategic Action Plan, and the initiative on Curriculum Renewal, SU is in the process of developing a New University Core Curriculum.
  - i) The actual process is that of the faculty: a faculty driven process.
  - ii) What is the core set of knowledge and values that we want students to secure with an SU education?
    - (1) Will create a task force that will be charged to look to remain true to Jesuit Catholic heritage and liberal arts tradition, provide knowledge, skills & values to bring to the student's academic life and social interpersonal interactions and what are the areas of knowledge, and the curriculum to develop, that process.
    - (2) This will be a broad, open and inclusive process to get to the final product. It will be fully faculty driven.
- b) New university CORE curriculum would launch fall 2012.

## **8) Updates, Announcements**

- a) Mark Chinen Endowed Professorship Installation, Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm, room C5.

**Next Meeting:** *November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 1:30 - 3:30pm in Student Center 210*