University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 58, Meeting No. 19
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
VL 1128 or via Zoom

Present: Members: Scott Clark, Rahul Gomes, Abby Hemmerich, Mary Hoffman, Marquell Johnson, Carol Koroghlanian, Bill Miller, Kati Morley, Dalete Mota, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Evan Weiher Guests: Debra Barker, Jean Pratt, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from May 3, 2022
   ▪ Motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2022, as submitted. Motion was seconded and approved (10-0-0).

2. American Indian Studies Program Review
   ▪ Debra Barker was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Program continues to exist due to generosity of affiliates across campus; affiliates continue to decrease due to departures which is of concern. Debra is retiring at the end of the semester. Proud of program’s renewed and continued commitment to EDI. Important to continue education regarding American Indian cultures. Desperately in need of resources. Review allowed program to look at accomplishments and the social justice component. Proud that reviewers were highly impressed with the program’s mission, aspirations, and curriculum. Asked Academic Affairs to continue to support and expand the program.
   ▪ How are affiliates recruited; how do they propose cross-listed courses?
     • No formal recruitment process, some begin with conversations organically. History has included Debra as a consultant on search committees to determine if the hire could be a fit for AIS as well. Other faculty have a connection with AIS or reach out because they are interested. Sometimes students make recommendations of faculty they’d like AIS pursue.
   ▪ With the decrease in affiliated faculty, will AIS expand on departments from which affiliates come?
     • Have stayed within College and it has been successful. Indigenous STEM and healthcare are strong areas of growth that could extended capacity within program and the university. Students have asked for courses in tribal government, politics, and administration and those have been added to PDs. Students love music and would like to offer that; however, the program doesn’t make requests of departments/are respectful of their autonomy and needs.
   ▪ Nursing has an immersion program that goes to Rosebud multiple times each year. Debra does meet with the students. Many are confused by the government structure, fiscal infrastructure, health, education; they are recommended to take a couple Native American literature courses.
   ▪ What are the specific benefits of changing from a program to a department?
     • Brought forth in the previous program review, but program was overly optimistic about the possibility of growth. If program had at least four people for a DPC and Senate presence, would create a platform. External reviewer comes from a similar AIS Department – it’s small and relies on affiliate faculty. Feel the status of a department elevates, surprised when someone says they were not aware UWEC had an AIS program. Feel department brings visibility and a program inhibits growth.
     • It’s a major students find, better visibility for external entities too.
Current offer a major, minor, and certificate and have been able to attract interest from throughout the state. Pushback is that they are too small, but there are no resources because they’re too small, stuck in a closed loop.

- Surprised by the number of Social Work colleagues who did not receive education around Native American issues, culture, history. Need to acknowledge we are on tribal lands and recognize the impact. Every student should leave Eau Claire understanding the dynamics, especially living in a state with 12 recognized tribes. Majority of social work graduates are going to work with clients or coworkers who identify as Native American and they may never know. Many students intersect with it and don’t realize the impact. Students need skills in intercultural competence, cultural sensitivity, and an interest in intercultural communication.

- Precarious situation with Dr. Barker’s retirement. Looking for an indigenous STEM hire, public health, nursing, or more broadly? Possible future collaboration with Geology. Could be rich collaboration between nursing and public health too. Because the program is so multi-disciplinary there’s flexibility and a lot of directions to grow if given the resources to do so.

- Program Review Form Discussion
  - Summative recommendation to change organizational structure from program to department.
  - All in favor of supporting the responses from the chair and dean as submitted. Approved (X-0-0).

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting