

CAS Department Chairs

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2014

Guests: Golda Eldridge

Faculty Subs:

Next meeting: November 24, 2014 at 4pm in Lee Hall, Room 412

I. Veteran's Working Group

Golda discussed opportunities for veterans on campus and how to improve current programs. UMW is working with the Veterans Counselor from Germanna on how they are helping students succeed at school. Currently Golda is working on setting up a veterans student lounge in Combs. He is also working on a work study program as a Veteran Counselor. The VA pays for it so there is not an added expense to UMW. Students will be allowed to work up to 24 hours/ per week if they are able to commit to that many hours / per week. The Governor's Office has a computer based training that faculty may use to learn more about working with veteran students. It has been sent to the Provost office for approval before faculty may have access [subsequently sent to faculty].

Questions:

1. How many veterans are on campus? The UMW application until recently did not ask the question of students. The approximate number includes veterans, spouse or child that is eligible to use the GI Bill to pay for college. The Fredericksburg campus has roughly 300 veterans as students and the Stafford campus, close to 50 students.
2. What are some of the Veterans' challenges? Challenges include: do not like to be in large groups; may not want to sit with their back to the door; images that may be discussed/shown in class may bring back memories of things they may have seen in combat; typically veterans are older students and may have families. They may not make people aware that they are veterans.

Military, Veteran, and Prior-service Student Resources: <http://students.umw.edu/veterans/>

II. Announcements

1. Strategic Allocation—In early November a memo/update will come from the President and Provost on its status.
2. Strategic Planning for the University—This is expected to be short term, completed during this year. A committee of 12-15, about half of which will be faculty members, will work on the planning strategies.
3. Summer School Schedules--Schedules will be delayed going out. The Provost's office will identify classes the students are looking for. The required minimum enrollment will be the same as last summer.
4. Admissions—The first Open House on Saturday, October 18th was successful. Richard thanked all that participated in the event. Admissions will ask liaisons or Chairs to reach out to a small number of students who have all of the following 3 characteristics: they attended an open house, identified a likely major, and listed UMW as their first choice.
5. Honors Program Request—Richard asked every Department Chair to send Kelli Slunt (cc Richard) a section in their department in which the faculty member would like to see a

cohort of honors students. The students will create a *group contract* with the professor that will qualify their experience as an Honors course, as opposed to an individual contract. . Several departments are currently doing this with students (such as CPSC, ENLC, PSCI). Sections typically should be at the 200 or 300 level. The class should not have many prerequisites. The request came from seeing a diminished number of classes being offered for honors students. This is a great opportunity for faculty to have a core of very strong students within a class.

6. Other—Debra Steckler is a faculty fellow in Academic Services working with transfer students. She asked the departments for a list of courses that align with transfer courses. Some departments may already have this in place. She would like a handout available for the transfer students.

III. Workload discussion – information sharing

-class sizes: Class sizes vary depending on room size, structure of the course or equipment used and available within the classroom. The usual numbers range from 15-110 students in a class.

-#s of sections taught / faculty / year (not including internships): The range was from 2-3 to 4-4 depending on the department requirements.

-double sections: departments varied in their use of double sections. Only 2 or 3 departments were generally using more than two double sections/semester.

-incorporating research: The requirements for internships vary by department. Some groups of interns meet as a class twice a week with faculty members in the department taking turns working with the students. Others have faculty members that take on students individually, and some have one faculty member work with the students while the rest of the department helps critique the work. A much noted model was having all independent study students or internships assigned to one person so that the course effectively becomes a pass around release or at least a course with diminished workload needs.

-4 vs 3 credits - departments for which it's a positive? a negative?: Discussion tabled for now although it was clear that a significant variation of opinions was present. There was general agreement that a "one size fits all" plan would not work well.

IV. Vision: one sentence from each department

For the purposes of both advocacy and eventual planning, Richard asked each department to come up with a CAS vision statement (one sentence).