Deans’ Group Minutes 03/19/03

In Attendance: Lauren Adamson, Mary Jane Casto, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Janice Griffith, Charlene Hurt, S Kelley, Mike Moore, Robert Moore, Jane Mutchler. Also in attendance: Mary Hocks, George Rainbolt. Chaired by Ron Henry.

I. Minutes of February 12, 2003 were approved without modification.

II. Writing Intensive Graduation Requirement
Mary Hocks and George Rainbolt presented a list of courses considered as a part of the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program. They also presented information about a recommendation supported by the Adn and Standards Committee that every student would be required for graduation at the 3000 and 4000 levels, beg the Fall 2005. Ron Henry asked if this resolution could be implemented in 2004.

Jane Mutchler agreed the Fall 2004 implementation is possible, given that sufficient resources are available. Lauren Adamson asked if in departments with small numbers of majors, such as Math, these courses could be taken out of the major department. George Rainbolt confirmed this solution is a part of the proposal. Robert Moore asked about classes with enrollments greater than 25. Ron Henry indicated Writing Consultants would assist in large classes. Mary Hocks described how Writing Consultants are trained by WAC and are then able to support the workload of course. This training can be paid for through the WAC program. Therefore, to accommodate large sections faculty would be assisted by Writing Consultants to reflect a 25 to 1 ratio.

Ron Colarusso asked the reason the writing requirement is not instituted before the 3000 level of courses. It was described that all students are already required to take three general Writing Intensive (WI) in the freshman core (except when students test out), and that the current proposal recommends these additional WI courses be concentrated within the specific discipline of the major.

Lauren Adamson supported the use of the title “Writing Consultants", who as Mary Hocks described, may include faculty or trained graduate/undergraduate assistants within the discipline. Lauren Adamson also indicated that the purposes of this discussion the list that was provided should not included lower level WAC courses. George Rainbolt also stressed that not all sections of a course are writing intensive, and care would have to be taken with these designations.

Bill Fritz asked if the courses should have a WI designation and noted that on other campuses students sometimes avoid courses so designated. Susan Kelley indicated the HHS chairs support this proposal, and that one HHS course is not included in the current list. George Rainbolt and Mary Hocks acknowledged there are other courses that not be included or may not have gone through approval process.

Mike Moore cautioned that in order to satisfy some of the General Education SACS requirements, adequate assessment of these objectives and evidence of outcomes would need to be provided. Lauren Adamson stressed ideas have been a continuing part of university conversations. Ron Henry indicated these discussions began in 1991 or 1992 and the momentum the WI presents is one way to put more emphasis on incorporating the goal of ensuring and being able to assess the writing competency of students. Ron Henry stated that assessment is best embedded in courses in order to audit these assessments. Mike Moore stated other domains could be considered in addition writing objectives.

Mary Hocks stressed the need for department chair involvement to make the transition. Lauren Adamson indicated it might be more difficult for some disciplines to incorporate these changes; George Rainbolt indicated there could be exceptions considered. Ron Henry described that mathematical societies have explored the development of such .
courses. George Rainbolt stressed that courses that would be considered need to be ready by April 2004 for inclusion in catalog. Bill Fritz indicated that documented courses could be designated “WI” courses on Banner as soon Senate approval takes place.

III. Budget Cuts
Ron Henry summarized the budgetary cuts to date for the FY03 budget $5.79M (approximately 9.5%) of the original appropriation of $166.8M. Discussions are ongoing concerning USG additional FY03 potential budget cuts. These cuts could result in an additional reduction of approximately $1M for GSU for the current fiscal year. He believes firm answers will probably be available next week. Additional unfunded annualized mandates will result in a $7.09M for FY04.

Ron Henry indicated for FY04, the budget might be approximately $23M below the original appropriation for He also stated GSU should receive $12.2M in workload money, and has requested $4M for the remainder of the workload money. These values are based on the assumption that tax increases will occur. He also believes GSU budget will not be confirmed until after the May 20-21 BOR meeting.

Robert Moore asked if students presently being recruited should be informed of potential increases in fees. Ron Henry indicated other institutions are also increasing departmental fees to help accommodate these reductions.

IV. Senate Voting Information
There is university discussion ongoing to include visiting or temporary faculty members in the voting body. Bill Fritz indicated these faculty would be counted with full-time only for purposes of representation regarding number of senators and committee participation, but would not have a voting rights. Discussion will continue in the University Senate.

V. Enrollment Information
Approximately 8800 applications for Fall 2003 were received by the March deadline. Of these, it is projected students will be accepted and 2200 will enroll. Lauren Adamson indicated the CAS has been unsuccessful in attaining a list of high achieving students. Bill Fritz offered to forward the information need to the Crystal Report Writer.

Bill Fritz noted that USG would be replacing the CAPP system over the next year to replace PACE to better track students across the USG. At a recent Banner national meeting, Bill Fritz noted the CAPP system will only be as powerful as the understanding of both the department and the CAPP team members, and therefore asked if meetings could be arranged for department representatives, a member of the college/school advisement offices and the CAPP system builders for transition planning, at the rate of one or two departments per week.

VI. Research Titles
Ron Henry presented a list of the colleges/schools had supplied the staff and faculty research titles supplied by various colleges/schools for discussion.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 9:30 to 11:30 am Room 200, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center.

Submitted by Lisa Beck 04/01/03