Deans' Group Minutes 8/9/06

**In Attendance:** JL Albert, Roy Bahl, Joan Carson, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Charlene Hurt, Steve Kaminshine, Fenwick Huss, Susan Kelley, Carol Winkler. Ron Henry, Chair.

Harry Dangel, George Pullman

**Minutes of July 12 were approved**

- **QEP and Academic Professional WAC Writing Consultants**
  Harry Dangel distributed a handout on departmental examples of Critical Thinking Student Learning Outcomes. Harry mentioned that discussions with department chairs on critical thinking have been positive and most departments are already involved with the concept of critical thinking.

  Harry Dangel mentioned that the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is outlined with critical thinking to define, assess, and provide feedback on student learning outcomes. Harry Dangel added that QEP was part of the discussion sessions at a recent SACS Accreditation Orientation.

  George Pullman distributed a handout on QEP Talking Points and began discussion of the Call for Proposals for the Academic Professionals.

  The deans discussed and commented on the role of the Academic Professionals. The Academic Professionals will be evaluated by the Writing Across the Curriculum staff, but input from the faculty and colleges where they are teaching will be important. The grading of student work will be done by the faculty member and not the Academic Professionals. The Academic Professionals will be able to review and provide feedback to students on their work before final assignments are turned in. The Academic Professionals will not have a role in the design of a course.

  The deans expressed concern on the Academic Professionals having enough knowledge on the subject matter. George Pullman commented that the knowledge of the course material will be closely aligned with the Academic Professionals educational background.

  Carol Winkler inquired about the funding resources that may be needed for using Academic Professionals in large class sections. George Pullman commented that funding resources will travel with the courses each semester that Academic Professionals are teaching.

  The deans suggested experimenting with the Academic Professionals in a few disciplines and monitor the success of the program before fully implementing. Ron Henry commented that the program needs to go forward, but will so as a pilot.

- **SACS issues**
  Joan Carson distributed a handout documenting SACS requirements. Joan mentioned that the Compliance report for SACS Reaccreditation will be due a year from next month. The university is on track and in good shape on gathering the documents needed for the report. The handout outlined various areas where documentation is needed from the colleges for the SACS report.

  The deans discussed and commented on each recommendation on the handout. Susan Kelley asked if the recommendations agreed upon by the deans could be emailed to them for confirmation. Joan Carson answered that the handout would be updated and emailed to the deans.

- **Summer/fall enrollment**
  Bill Fritz distributed handouts on enrollment and freshmen/fall transfer applicants. Bill reported that there were 108,000 credit hours for summer semester with only 27 SCHs being added after census date. The fall enrollment looks good with students registering earlier and attending Incept earlier. Bill added that 24,823 students have registered for fall semester, but 9,000 have yet to pay. A fee cancellation will be done on August 11 which is early this year with the hope that any cancellations done in error can be corrected before classes begin. Bill mentioned that enrollment tends to increase during late registration and orientations.

  Bill Fritz mentioned that more focus will be given to recruiting students to come back and finish their degree programs.

- **Graduate student issues**
  Ron Colarusso asked for clarification on the enrollment hours for graduate students. Bill Fritz mentioned that policy calls for a six hour phase-in whereby graduate students must enroll for 1 hour in fall, 4 hours in spring, and 6 hours in summer. At least 1 hour
enrollment must be in the term a graduate student plans to complete their program of study. [Note added subsequent to meeting – the minimum number of hours in spring is reduced to 3].

The deans discussed the policy and Ron Colarusso expressed serious concerns on how the graduate student enrollment policy is being enacted.

**RPG update**
Ron Henry mentioned that 32 RPG proposals were received and 30 were evaluated (two of the proposals arrived after the deadline and were not considered). The proposals were rank ordered by the review committee. Ron Henry, Bill Fritz, and Nannette Commander chose 14 proposals from the first 17. Ron Henry mentioned that we were pleased with the proposals which focused primarily on advising and supplemental instruction.

Ron Henry commented briefly that the university may take a closer look at course redesign in departments which would probably be more cost effective while simultaneously producing increased student learning.

**Area A completion requirement**
Ron Henry mentioned that discussions have been underway to require students to finish Area A by the end of their freshmen year. The deans inquired about what courses fall under Area A. Ron Henry responded that the courses are Math and two Introductory English courses.

Bill Fritz added that a number of students will wait until their junior or senior year to complete Area A. Bill Fritz added that the Admissions and Standards Committee would need to approve the requirement changes being proposed to Area A of the curriculum.

Ron Henry mentioned that he took a look at the University of Alabama’s curriculum and found that they offer students a grading system of A, B, C, and no credit for introductory English and mathematics courses below calculus. Ron Henry added that the rationale behind this grading system is to allow students a chance to complete a course without penalty.

**Any other business**
Steve Kaminshine expressed concern on the volume of email law students are receiving at their GSU email address. Steve Kaminshine mentioned that law students may be missing important email announcements due to the volume of junk mail received. Steve Kaminshine inquired if GSU student organizations have access to student email addresses where they can send their own email announcements.

Ron Henry commented that he would check with Rebecca Stout, the Dean of Students, on student organizations having access to student email addresses.

JL Albert added that he would check the spam system to find out about large amounts of junk mail being received by students.

Ron Henry reminded the dean's of the New Faculty Orientation scheduled for August 16.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.
Next meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 2006, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Golden Key Board Room 2nd Floor Student Center.