ASCRC Minutes 9/27/162:00 Skaggs 174

##  Call to order

Members Present: M. Boller C. Chestnut, D. Coffin, I. Crummy, J. Eglin, C. Fitzpatrick, C. Greenfield, B. Hillman, K. Lamar, T. Missett, D. Morell, M. Semanoff, G. St. George, E. Uchimoto, G.G. Weix
Ex-Officio Present: B. French J. Hickman,

Members Excused: N. Lindsay, B. Holzworth
Guest: J. DeBoer, S. Lodmell, B. Chin, J. Patterson, C. Reading, T. Slatter-Smith

The minutes from 9/6/16 were approved.

## Communication

* Professor Lodmell, Chair of the PLA Council provided ASCRC with some background to the Prior Learning Assessment policy and implementation. Prior Learning assessment encompasses students’ engagement with higher education outside of the classroom. The most familiar are exams such as AP, CLEP and IB, as well as credit for military experience such as intensive language or welding through ACE. Faculty are accustomed to facilitating learning, assessing learning, and credentialing learning. Their instinct is to be suspicious of learning outside the classroom. However, there have been studies that show these students perform as well or better than the control group.

There were representatives from all the MUS campuses involved in developing the state-wide policy. Initially there was a grant to fund the policy development, but there is no funding for implementation. Most of the PLA options involve assessment by testing. Portfolio Assessment is the one exception and it is not used often because it requires a lot of work by the student to document their learning which could be superimposed on a syllabus. It is less work for them to take a test. When first considered there was reference to a for- profit company that charged for portfolio assessment. This was a big concern of the faculty. The current procedure requires the portfolio to be reviewed by a Subject Matter Specialist (faculty member) but there is no mechanism for compensated for the time it takes to assess the portfolio.

Professor Lodmell attended a portfolio assessment training where there were 27 participants (subject matter experts). They all reviewed the same portfolios and there was an amazing amount of consensus, even with the diverse expertise, so it is not as subjective as you might think.

The Registrar’s Office created a new set of codes in Banner, so students with PLA credit can be tracked. This is the one code that is the same for all MUS campuses. Currently there are about 3,000 AP credits granted. ASCRC would like to see the tracking data in another year. It would be helpful if the data analysis includes whether the AP credit met a general education requirement.

The PLA Council has established a line of communication. Each campus has identified a PLA Liaison and created an internal guideline document. UM’s draft will be sent to committee members to review. ASCRC will need to decide where the document should reside and whether it should go to the Faculty Senate. The Council is also working on improved communication with returning veterans. Most veterans some type of rigorous training, but have no idea they could get credit through ACE. Sean Grove, Director of UM VETS Office is considering efforts to create a single state-wide portal for veterans.

* The legislature and the Governor have expressed the goal to increase the number of students enrolled in dual enrolment courses by 1000, /each year for the next three years. These students pay half of Missoula College tuition. President Engstrom would like Missoula College to be a leader for writing courses. Dual Enrollment instructors require a master’s degree and 9 graduate credits in the discipline, or working toward completion of 9 graduate credits. The instructors must meet the same qualifications at Missoula College adjuncts. Discipline specific supervision is also required. Unfortunately Missoula College is unable to provide compensation for the discipline specific supervision. Most other MUS campuses provide compensation. Professor Slater-Smith is currently volunteering her time to provide supervision. This is not sustainable and could potentially be a workload concern for the union. The future vision is to provide professional development opportunities for the instructors similar to UPWA. Professor Chin and Slater-Smith are planning a workshop for the teachers to bring samples of students writing and have a collaborative discussion.

This year there are over 580 students enrolled in dual enrollment courses, and another 30 taking courses on the main campus through the high school pilot. High school students are also enrolled in online courses. There are 5 high school teachers teaching WRIT 101 with the syllabus used at Missoula College. In addition to WRIT 101 and LIT 110, current courses offered include Accounting, Intro to Business, Anatomy, Public Speaking, Welding, and Drafting. In order for high school students to receive high school credit the instructor must have a class 8 certification. This is a state requirement linked to the responsibility of caring for minors. Beginning this year students taking remedial dual credit courses must pay the full Missoula College tuition. These are mostly students who have been home schooled. There are several at the Bitterroot College.

Missoula College has submitted a funding proposal to the President’s Office and Jordon Patterson is preparing additional grant proposals. Her position is currently funded on a grant. The University is claiming the headcount of students enrolled in dual enrollment but not allocating resources. We need to prove to OCHE that coordinating dual enrollment requires resources.

Some of the issues that have come up include high school instructors setting up classes with different titles and small schools wanting to put students on different tracks in the same class, AP and dual enrollment, for example. There have also been blended classes with students who can pay for the college credit and those that cannot. There is some private scholarship money available for students. Instructors should be affiliated with the closest campus. However, if the department is not interested in overseeing the dual enrollment course then the instructor can contact one of the other MUS institutions. There was an incentive program that provided high school teachers with credit for credit, but this ended.

Chair Eglin encouraged committee members to review the 50-state dual enrollment comparison. The program is modeled after the Running Start Program in Washington. The interest in the program could be related to the lack of funding for gifted education. Missoula College has been vetting the teachers and quality has not been a concern. The teachers feel privileged and welcome the guidance. Many are graduates from UM. Finding instructors for LIT 110 has been more problematic. Some of the teachers already teach IB and AP.

ASCRC would like to see a yearly report of what is happening in dual-enrollment sometime after the census date spring semester. This data collection could also be helpful with regard to requests for funding. Professor Coffin will edit the guidelines document to include reference to the reporting requirement.

The Faculty Senate Chair will speak to the President and Provost regarding the funding issue.

## Good and Welfare

* Degree Works is live. The Office of Student Success is happy to provide training for departments. It is a fairly intuitive system.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.