Feb 21, 2018

Present: J. Schmidtke (Chair), Z. Jones, D. Nef, R. Pun, M. Richaud

Absent: M. Raheem

Excused: J. Cummins,

Called to order 3:30 pm in Henry Madden Library Room 1222

1. Agenda

MSC approved the agenda for Feb 21, 2018.

1. Minutes of Jan 31 2018  
   1. MSC approved minutes of Jan 31, 2018.
2. Communications and Announcements

No new communication or announcements.

1. Discussion of Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree program. The following issues/concerns were raised:
   1. One committee member questioned how marketable students would be with a degree in Liberal Studies.  That is, how would this improve individuals' ability to secure a job given the debt they might likely incur to obtain this degree.
   2. The committee expressed concern that on-line courses often require more initiative and responsibility of students to perform well in the class and the poorer students often struggle in these courses.  In terms of the potential market (students who have completed at least 60 units) how many students have left the university with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
   3. Given that the future of the Blackboard platform is uncertain.  How much course re-design will be necessary if the university moves to a new platform and will there be costs associated with course redesign if a new platform is adopted.
   4. There is an error in the proposal on PAGE 41 in the first list of expenditures, line 6 reads that the cost of faculty is for 12 units, in the second list item 6 reads that the cost of faculty is for 24 units but the dollar amount is the same.  It should be for 24 units, which cost is correct?
   5. The benefit rates of 9% for the faculty are adequate as the cost of their other benefits (e.g., health insurance, pension, etc.) are captured in their regular faculty salary.  The advisor, however, is a 3/4 time position.  Normal benefit rates are about 35% which should be captured for this salary.  The eliminates the profitability of the program even at 27 units.  Who will pay for these benefits?  Technically, if the program is going to be self-sufficient, these need to be covered by the program.
   6. Why are we trying to be the low-cost provider of on-line education?  Certainly, in the central valley, we have name recognition and a good brand.  Why is the cost set at the lowest for the market?  Raising it slightly would provide more revenue to the college, and may in fact be necessary if the program is to be viable (related to point 5 above).
   7. Will the program be launched at less than 27 students and what is the plan to launch if the number is significantly less?  Many similar successful programs on campus have taken several years to reach projected numbers, if less than 27 students sign up for the initial cohort will the launch be delayed?  If it is significantly lower, who will cover the deficit in the program?  It would make the case stronger if the Dean of Arts and Humanities provides a letter stating that he will support the program and cover losses in the event that the program does not meet its projected enrollment.
2. Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm

Agenda 14 Mar 2018

1. Approval of agenda.
2. Approval of the minutes of 21 Feb 2018
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. Review of Bachelor of Liberal Arts Proposal – Scott Moore to respond to questions/concerns
5. Discussion of D. Astone provided materials
6. New Business

Next meeting 4 Apr 2018