

Educational Policy Committee

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Present: Provost Cindy Speaker; Profs. Desmond Cummins, Laura McClusky, & Katie Waugh (Chair);
Student Representative Adrianna Tarleton ('19)

Meeting Convened at 4:35

1. Meeting Time Confirmed: 4:30, Wednesdays
2. Minutes Schedule Determined, and will be posted to Moodle.
3. Committee Elections:
 - Chair: Katie Waugh
 - Faculty Representative to the BoT Academic Affairs Committee: Laura McLusky
4. Review and prioritization of ongoing and new business:
 - Immediate (Fall Semester) Priorities:
 - Fall Schedule/Final Exam Policies
 - Position Requests: Sep. 15
 - Finalize pending business from 2017-2018 needing Registrar's input and collaboration
 - Independent Study/Directed Study Proposal
 - Last Semester in Residence/Cross Registration policies
 - Review Assessment work, and plan feedback/guidance
 - The committee discussed initial Assessment findings generated from the Middle States review process during summer 2018; Chair will share summary findings with committee.
5. Discussion of Fall Schedule
 1. Review of constraints: Length and timing of Orientation and Move In procedures
 1. Student Life continues to assert that Orientation is too long
 2. The committee agreed to revise assumptions about the preference for weekend move-in dates
 1. Weekends are not necessarily more convenient for many families
 2. Financial and other support services are not available on weekends
 3. Multiple move-in dates introduce complexity to schedule
 2. Discussion about the substance and goals of Orientation:
 1. Students in past appreciated student-to-student education re: Wells Culture
 2. Proposal for more down-time: to rest, reflect, and explore alone
 3. Discussion about faculty involvement: how to introduce students to the academic life of the college, while also respecting faculty workload concerns?

3. Committee resolved to reach out to Student Life for specific information by which we may better prioritize possible calendar options, in lieu of another joint meeting. The chair will reach out to the Dean of Students with the following questions:
 1. What would be your ideal for the length of new student orientation?
 2. What are your most important goals/priorities in orientation?
 3. What's your ideal structure (pacing, etc)?

6. For next time:
 1. Chair will share Assessment review documents on Moodle
 2. Committee members will review previous calendar drafts (posted on Moodle)
 3. Chair will reach out to Dean of Students

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Waugh