

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
December 15, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: Aggelou, Amy; ; Falcione, Bonnie; Horvath, Zsuzsa; Kelly, Kathleen; Leibold, Mary Lou; Kaynar, A. Murat; Manfredi, Juan; Petracchi, Helen; Roberts, Laurel Bridges; Cynthia Tananis; Weinstein, Aliyah

Excused: Beck Jr, David; Sbragia, Alberta; Skledar, Susan

Not Present: Nashaat, Rizk; Brown, Shelly Renee

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Zsuzsa Horvath (Chair) at 4:07pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 2014 meeting were approved as written.

New Business

- The September 2014 minutes have been corrected via correspondence with Lori Molinaro to reflect that Murat A. Kaynar was in attendance (original minutes did not list his name).

Old Business

- Working group updates
 - OMET
 - 1st meeting planned for January
 - Discussion around incentives, in-class administration of evaluations reported by members are even resulting in lack of participation, and timing of email reminders to students. Student representative Weinstein noted that emails sent during non-class time (late in the evening, midnight) may be better timed to be received by students when they can actually complete the evaluations, rather in the midst of busy daily activities (midday).
 - Digital Ethics
 - 1st meeting planned for January

Vice-Provost updates

- **Undergraduate**
 - Dr. Manfredi reported:
 - The University of Pittsburgh's 2015 Annual Assessment Conference is to be held on Friday, January 30, 2015 sponsored by the Office of the Provost. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Marco Molinaro, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Innovation, Research and Analytics and Hub Director for the *interdisciplinary* Agriculture Medicine Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (iAMSTEM) at the University of California, Davis. For registration visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015AssessmentConference> by January 20, 2015.
 - He also reported that two UG office members had just returned from the Middle States Commission of Higher Education. PITT's Periodic Review Report is due June 1, 2017. In spring

2016 members will attend the Middle States training to prepare the report. Then in academic year 2016-2017 the university community will be called upon to prepare and review the report. In response to a member's question, Dr. Manfredi explained that the newly approved standards have been reduced to 7 (from 14) but it is not yet known if we will be asked to prepare our Periodic Review Report for the old or the new standards.

- Lastly he reported on the new Assessment Community within the my.pitt.edu portal that is open to all faculty and staff. The community is meant to supplement the [Assessing Student Learning](#) website contains proceedings from past conferences. Minutes from the last two meetings are now available.
 - In follow-up, Dr. Manfredi indicated that Patti Mathay would be the best person from the Registrar's office to invite to an upcoming SEPC meeting to provide information on availability for "walk-in" requests to the Registrar for transcripts.
- **Graduate**
 - Dr. Manfredi provided the report for Dr. Sbragia:
 - Chancellor Gallagher will give a presentation on the impact of science policy on Doctor of Philosophy students on January 14th from 5-6:30pm in Ballroom B of the University Club. The program is open to the public, questions will be solicited from students in advance and the event is sponsored by the Graduate and Professional Student Government. A short "meet and greet" session will follow the Chancellor's presentation.
 - Fulbright Scholars from PITT, CMA, Penn State, and Duquesne recently gathered for a luncheon at PITT on December 6th. Fulbrighters from Penn State were visiting the city of Pittsburgh.

Faculty Assembly update

- University Times report: <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=33410>
 - Report: Admissions and Student Aid Committee - Ms. Robin Kear, Chair
 - Discussion of Opportunities and Challenges Facing Higher Education, lead by Vice Provost David DeJong
- Chair Horvath and Co-chair Falcione will provide the report for the SEPC to Faculty Assembly on January 13, 2015. It will include the report provided to the Senate Executive Committee earlier this fall and the recommendation from the SEPC for the expanded course descriptions.

ACIE update

Liaison Falcione reported:

- Two subcommittees are being formed at the request of Chair Laurie Kirsch. One will focus on studying and eventually recommending ways and means for addressing and including diversity in teaching and learning in response to the findings from the Summit on Diversity held this past summer. The other will focus on the realized successes and areas for further improvement with on-line OMET evaluations including: response rates, the instrument, use for improving teaching. The December 18th ACIE meeting will provide an overview of the OMET process and data to date. Liaison Falcione updated members that the council was informed of the initiation of the Senate cross-committee OMET working group and of the opportunity for collaboration due to overlapping goals. Discussion ensued from members about how diversity is defined (or not defined) at the university and acknowledgement of the importance of further

study of on-line OMET improvements and relevance for joint efforts across the Senate cross-committee working groups and the ACIE subcommittee if possible.

- Innovations in Education Awards - proposals are due January 26, 2015. CIDDE offers consultation sessions.

SEPC future planning

- January 2015: Marc Harding, Chief Enrollment Officer to present an update on the 2014-2015 Freshman class.
- February 2015: Tour at CIDDE
- 2015 date to be announced - Office of the University Registrar

Adjournment: 4:40pm

Attachments: none