Diversity Curriculum Review Committee (DCRC)
of the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee

Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2016, 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Waterman 427A

Present: Alec Ewald (CAS), Holly Busier (HCOL), Amani Whitfield (CAS), Thomas Macias (CAS; Provost appointed), Jonathan Sands (CEMS), Tao Sun (CALS), Jackie Weinstock (CESS; CAC Chair’s designate), Sue Kasser (CNHS), Evan Eyler (COM), Katherine Anderson (RSENR), Shana Haines (CESS)

Absent: Joanne Pencak (GSB)

Guests: Katherine Shepherd, Cynthia Reyes.

Meeting called to order 3:03 p.m.

I. Cynthia Reyes and Katie Shepherd, Co-chairs of the General Education Assessment Committee for Diversity, provided an overview of the charge of their committee, and sought the DCRC’s input. Their committee is charged with collecting and analyzing data enabling assessment of D1 and D2 classes. The committee was convened last spring and have met three times this fall, and have been developing a plan. Alex Yin, Director of the Office of Institutional Research (OIR), is also working with all of the Gen Ed Committees for assessment. They are considering a range of assessment activities, including looking at all of the knowledge that exists from previous work; identifying what competencies are being addressed across D1 and D2 courses; building a student focus group; and gathering data on outcomes with regard to the diversity competencies. The first three assessment activities are under way this year; they hope to do some course-level assessment next year.

Discussion includes defining the relationship between this Assessment Committee and the DCRC, part of whose charge is to “Develop and oversee a mechanism for assessment.”

II. Minutes:
The September 2016 and October 2016 minutes were approved as written.
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of September 15, 2016.
Approve: 9  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 2

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of October 20, 2016.
Approve: 9  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 2

III. Review of Course proposals.

1. Sarah Osten, HST 195C (Modern Mexico), for the D2 designation. (Materials distributed via e-mail.)
   Shana Haines moved to approve the HST 195C for D2 designation. Seconded; discussion.

   Approve: 11  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

   Tao Sun moved to approve the HCOL 086M for D2 designation. Seconded; discussion.

   Approve: 11  Oppose: 0  Abstain: 0

3. Todne Chipumuro, REL 164 (Religion, Race & Ethnicity in America), for D1 designation. (Materials on Courseleaf.) [NOTE: no DCRC action is necessary. This course is already approved; the Department is changing to a permanent number, and entered it into Courseleaf to make sure the entire process was as transparent as possible. The instructor, department chair, Registrar’s office staff, and DCRC chair have discussed.]

IV. Proposal for evaluating existing D1 (and, eventually, D2) courses: review and discussion of 2011 draft policy for review. Building on the 2011 proposal drafted under the DCRC leadership of Susan Kasser, the committee discussed ideas for a vehicle to ascertain periodically whether existing diversity courses are meeting the new competencies, as we are charged to do.

   The objective is to meet the needs of our students, and fulfill our Committee’s charge, in a way that avoids unnecessarily burdening faculty with a difficult process. One proposal is to ask department chairs to verify with faculty that a course meets diversity objectives. Other suggestions include the use of an automated (that is, embedded in a poll-style electronic document) checklist for the competencies; a letter to instructors of old courses, stating that the University’s diversity competencies have changed, and to please affirm that your course meets specific items from these competencies; such a letter might be productively framed as “can you help us.”
Discussion includes how to figure out what information is strictly needed, and whether to use an online form for faculty to attest that their course pursues specific competencies, in survey form, and asking for a syllabus to be attached. Questions include whether attachments can be added to Lime Survey responses, and whether our Committee would have staff support for the creation, distribution, and data collection from such a survey. To be continued at December meeting.

V. Revised websites for the DCRC and the course-proposal process. Discuss; set up subcommittee to review and support Laurie Eddy in creating new sites. Shana Haines, Tao Sun, and Thomas Macias volunteered to serve as a subcommittee for the website. Laurie will send a pdf of the new webpages to the workgroup. The group will meet directly after the December 15th DCRC meeting.

VI. Other business. There was no other business at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.