Minutes for PPBC meeting – 12/10/2020

Attendance

* David Rider, Kristen Larson, John Misasi, Brian Hutchinson, Amy Anderson, Brady Foreman, Qiang Hao, Brad Johnson, Dietmar Schwarz (came late)
* Absent: John Gilbertson, Jackie Caplan-Auerbach
* AS Senators - Olivia Chatters (present), Ankur Handa (Absent)

Approval of Minutes

* motioned to approve minutes, seconded
* 100%, unanimous (minus absentees)

Introductions to Student Senators

* Faculty introductions first
* Olivia Chatters
  + Applied math, one of the CS student senators
* David Rider described role of student senators
  + Senators play an advisory role
  + Non-voting
  + Students will need to need to be excused from personnel discussion

Update on CSE Vacancies

* Lizzy Ramhorst is looking for more clarity for CUE
  + PPBC approved Gerry Prody and Jian Ying (Math person)
  + We need to specify who will be CSE rep and who will be at large rep
* Council suggested and discussed Gerry Prody as CSE rep and Jianying Zhang as at large rep
* Council moved to have Gerry Prody as CSE rep and Jianying Zhang as at-large rep, seconded
  + Unanimous vote of approval

1-Page Strategic Initiatives

* 11 initiatives
* PPBC department rep will provide preamble and information and then PPBC discusses for feedback to department, rep takes notes, brings information back to department
* CSE Dean:
  + DAC met last week, did not discuss initiatives
  + CSE Dean has feedback from chairs, will share to help discussion along
* Council asked CSE Dean what the role of these 1-pagers are
  + answer:
    - Yearly strategic planning, getting departments involved with each others discussions/plans, sharing ideas within the department (look around the department and what do you see)
    - What are thing things
    - Get information out to college early
    - Get ideas widely vetted
    - Try to combine strategically
    - This is pre-decision package year
    - Improve the ideas over the next year and help push forward as decision package later
    - Provides data/information for CSE Dean to discuss with Academic Affairs/Provosts/etc
      * These ideas have helped get new faculty lines over the past few years
    - "how are we thinking broadly"
  + Council question
    - This is an idea generating session and understanding of ideas session
    - Not a ranking or "thumbs up or down" session

* Physics Proposals
  1. Inclusive Success – Broad Implementation of Evidence-Based Instructional Practices in Physics and Astronomy at WWU
     + Maybe a different title
     + Long term strategy of how to teach intro series
     + Have already changed practices and hired people to change instructional practices
     + Proposal would create director of first year programs
     + Questions
       - how would shadowing idea work?
         * Physics rep - right now it's ad hoc, the idea is coordinating it

Follow up question - Is there a formal shadowing/teaching program that impacts teaching load?

Council comment - SMATE does, in first year

* + - * Council comment - in Math, intro classes taught by NTT,
        + Council comment – half of 160 series in Physics taught NTT, other half by T/TT (no graduate program in physics)
      * Physics rep – Learning Assistants (LA) program in Physics was very successful
      * Council question - LA pedagogy course?
        + answer - weekend seminar, paid, possible a credit course
      * question from PPBC chair to CSE Dean - can we put multiple of these ideas together for a larger CSE proposal?
        + answer - This is our forum to minimize parallel developments without support
    - Council comment - More clarity on the "ask"
    - Council comment - funding for participation and NTT training

* 1. Addition of an Honors General Physics Sequence at WWU
  + Currently does not exist
  + Small cohorts, recruiting students
  + A lot of questions still
  + Council question - would pulling students from other course/cohorts impact those courses?
    - * + Council comment - Honors in 1st year math, captures students well
    - Council discussed diversity changes in college not being seen in the classrooms of STEM

* Math Proposal
  1. First Year Mathematics Student Success Initiative

- Preamble

* + - * + funding for participation and NTT training
        + Currently have a director of first year math
        + Director works to improve success rate in intro math
        + Math needs help funding working groups to better train, plan, develop
        + Also wants to develop a steering committee made up of TT/NTT/T, chair, tutoring center,
        + Need to pay NTT people for their work

Council question - what about changing the instructional model? Bigger classes but co-taught?

answer - Flipped, steering committee would do research, hard to do bigger sections because of lecture hall style rooms

* + - * + Council comment - Math 112 should be directly addressed in proposal (test to see if these ideas help with 112, assess, and reevaluate)
        + Council question - lots of NTT teaching in Math, what are we aiming for in the CSE?

Answer from CSE Dean

* + - * + 3 biennium plan to narrow gap between NTT and T/TT using proposals coming from lots of different departments (engineering, computer science, etc.)
        + Discussions at University level also happening too (discussing math)
        + Council comment - English department as a model could be a good to study
        + Council discussion- CSCI? Challenging because of how overloaded CSCI is currently

* Engineering & Design Proposal
  1. First year program

Council question

* + - Who is teaching these courses? How can we get more diverse group of people?
      * Council question

- how can CSE support and identify people to help teach these courses?

Comment

* Sometimes we look at the "new and shiny", but don’t try and get support for what we already do
* Suggested we look at 1-pagers through that “lens” as well

End of Discussions

Next Meeting

* January 21, 2021