UBUS Meeting

Present: Noel Adams, Sandra Cleveland, Joyce Wolburg, Kathleen Ford, M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh, Gary Meyer, Kristy Nielson, Stephanie Quade, James Richie, Christine Shaw, Peter Toumanoff, Chae Yi, Christine Krueger.

I. Reflection:
Christine Krueger gave the reflection; she expressed gratefulness in general and also with respect for her opportunity to travel to Cape Town, South Africa, tomorrow (in order to visit service-learning sites).

II: Approval of Minutes
The minutes from last meeting (2 February 2012) were passed unanimously.

III: Announcements / Reports:
Gary Meyer discussed the draft of the report to the academic senate. The UBUS committee’s work should be done after today; no other items appear on the horizon. Gary Meyer reported that at the last academic senate meeting, the proposal to include the core of common studies director as a member of the UBUS received positive feedback.

IV: New Business:
Martin Scanlon, an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership of the College of Education, presented a brief description on behalf of the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership for a proposed bilingual/bicultural minor. He argued that this minor would greatly benefit Marquette’s education students in primary and secondary education, in so far as having the opportunity to be certified in bilingual education will be an advantage in obtaining a teaching position. Dr. Scanlon also noted that this minor is congruent with the University mission. In addition, the Department of Public Instruction promotes this sort of program since it leads to the development of teachers who are better prepared to serve and teach their students.

There were several questions for Martin Scanlon. Christine Shaw asked whether or not there is room for a minor in the schedules of the students who are targeted by this program. Scanlon replied in the affirmative, although he indicated that it might require another semester of study for some students; nevertheless, he argued that it would be worth the extra time since they would be more marketable upon graduation.

Kristy Nielson asked for whom this program is targeted? Scanlon replied that initially, the main target was elementary majors with a Spanish second major. However, it was later discerned that other secondary majors would also benefit from it, since, it appeals to those who are interested in bilingual education. High school principals would find this minor to be attractive in their teacher candidates.

M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh asked whether or not this minor is in fact open to students
other than education majors? Scanlon was uncertain; that was not the intention when the minor was initially developed. Christine Shaw observed that, given the prerequisites, it would not seem possible for non-education majors to take on this minor. Gary Meyer and Kristy Nielsen both contributed to this discussion, in which it was made very clear that the minor is likely to be seen as viable only by education majors. However, the discussion indicated that there may be interest by non-education majors in some variation of the minor in the future.

Jim Richie observed that one of the letters in support of this proposal (by Ellen Eckman) indicated that only 5 students per semester would be permitted to be a part of one of the classes in the program (i.e., SPPA4610, which is offered only in the spring semester of each year). In light of this, Jim Richie asked how many students are projected to become a part of this program in years to come. A problem could arise for students who want to register for the courses, especially if this program became more popular, which is to be expected. Scanlon replied that anecdotal evidence suggests that there will be a lot of interest in the future to expand the number of students in the program. Kristy Nielson observed that potential problems could arise in light of this. Further discussion suggested that, given that there is support for 5 students per semester right now and given the perceived need to expand this to additional students, steps would need to be taken to accommodate that interest.

At 1:35pm: Scanlon was thanked for his report and answers to the questions, and left the meeting.

Christine Krueger made a motion to accept the proposal for further discussion. M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh seconded the motion. The ensuing discussion focused on the merits of the minor as well as the funding and registration issues associated with the minor. Since all courses in the minor are currently being offered, additional cost is not predicted to be an issue.

Discussion ensued regarding the construction of the minor itself. Though the minor requires additional coursework, it would be a good value for the students entering into the field of education. A vote was taken on the proposal, and it passed unanimously.

VI: Old Business:
The next item of discussion was Gary Meyer’s letter to the academic senate regarding the assessment of the core of common studies. This letter will be soon be forwarded to the academic senate, and the feedback of Peter Toumanoff would be included. The committee thanked Gary Meyer for his excellent work on crafting the letter.

The final item of discussion dealt with the matter of the UBUS committee membership. Chae Yi is finishing up his 3-year appointment to the committee. Kristy Nielson, who is serving for Debra Oswald, will not return. Gary Meyer indicated that he would make sure that the Committee on Committees would fill the open spots. Jim Richie has volunteered to be the chair of the committee next year.
No further meetings are anticipated this year (although subject to change).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.