University Board of Undergraduate Studies

Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2013

Present: Noel Adams, Edward Blumenthal, Marcus Braga-Alves, Sandra Cleveland, Ellen Eckman, Sarah Feldner, M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh, Alex Lahr, Gary Meyer, Debra Oswald, Stephanie Quade, James Richie, Christine Shaw, John Su.

Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm by Sarah Feldner.

Reflection was given by Ellen Eckman.

The minutes of the previous meeting (April 24) were approved as submitted, pending spelling corrections.

Announcements & Acknowledgements

1. New and returning members introduced themselves
2. The UBUS committee’s mission was reviewed in order to clarify the possible relevant tasks for the upcoming year.
3. Committee members were encouraged to think of relevant and possible items for discussion and to collect other possible relevant items from our fellow colleagues in our respective colleges and departments.

Discussion and Actions

1. John Su discussed items related to the core curriculum for Marquette University. He forwarded three files to the members of the UBUS committee for review. Topics in these files range from a comparison of Marquette’s core curriculum to other universities, to a discussion of the ways to improve academic advising, to a summary of five models for increasing integration of UCCS.

2. Gary Meyer discussed items related to Marquette University’s upcoming accreditation visit. A review team representing the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will visit our campus from September 30 - October 1. In order to prepare for this visitation, Gary Meyer presented an overview of the “Briefing Document” from Marquette University’s “Reaffirmation of Accreditation 2013.” The Briefing Document presents the major themes that arose from a two year self study in anticipation of the accreditation visit. Gary Meyer summarized and discussed the main themes in the “Briefing Document.”

3. Linda Salchenberger, Associate Provost for Planning and Budget, gave a presentation regarding Marquette University’s Academic Program Review. She presented an overview of which programs were to be reviewed over the next several years. Programs to be reviewed include the library in 2013, and the dental School in 2014. The approach taken when reviewing programs is to coordinate efforts with external accreditation bodies that will visit MU. She reported that the approach to program review will
help with respect to avoiding duplications and excessive burdens, along with being more strategic. She announced that there would be a provost summit, which is an initial meeting in which the relevant partners discuss the self-study, then discern the perceived need from the unit in question, and then decide on how to proceed accordingly. A one-year follow-up will take place to see how the action plan is being carried out. Resources will be divided up on the basis of this procedure. The possibility of having a member of UBUS participate in the Academic Program Review Council was discussed. All members of UBUS were encouraged to consider taking up this role, which could require a commitment of one to two years.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel S. Adams