

Summary of December 4, 2014 Meeting

Can Erbil (Chair)
Min Song
Anthony Annunziato
Cyril Opeil, S.J.
Susan Michalczyk
Devin Pendas
James Gips
Samuel Graves
Marie Boltz

Betty Blythe
Lillie Albert
Laura O'Dwyer
James Bretzke, S.J.
Theresa O'Keefe
Daniel Chambers
Vincent Rougeau
Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.
Thomas Wall

Katherine O'Dair
Siobhan Kelly
Hagop Toghramadjian
Dean Rockwell
David Quigley
Patricia DeLeeuw
J. Joseph Burns
Joseph Carroll
Jessica Pesce

1.

- a. Greg Kalscheur said the Core renewal agenda connects to social innovation because it is promoting interdisciplinary approaches and interdisciplinary courses. He updated the group on a busy fall semester, during which the task force finalized its vision statement and selected faculty to teach pilot courses next academic year. The call for proposals in October sought out Complex Problems and Enduring Questions courses. Complex Problems courses are larger and team taught, with smaller lab-based experiences. Enduring Questions courses are smaller, with 19 students each, and are joined by a common topic and set of questions. These models are meant to foster interdisciplinarity and conversation. They aim to integrate the course material with aspects of the students' lives and help them incorporate what they learn with how they live. The task force was happy with the creativity and thoughtfulness of proposals, and they selected 3 Complex Problems and 6 Enduring Questions courses. They would like to sponsor a larger number of courses in the second year of the pilot.
- b. The task force will work with the Center for Teaching Excellence to host conversations about Ignatian pedagogy and team teaching. They are also working with Mission & Ministry and Student Affairs to build time for reflection in these courses.
- c. David Quigley said it has been heartening to receive phone calls from other universities who are thinking about their own Core curricula and who have heard that something interesting is going on at BC. He says this is a chance for BC to provide leadership about what a C

- a. UGBC leadership asked Hagop to present this issue to the PAC, as there is a feeling of urgency to spread the word about rising costs on textbooks. Students are thankful for the attention that is already paid by faculty to these costs.
 - b. Hagop distributed a handout that listed best practices to reduce costs of textbooks without compromising the quality of courses. UGBC and perhaps the UCT will have more formal communication coming forward.
 - c. David Quigley noted that institutions are federally mandated to post course syllabi online a few months in advance with ISBN numbers in order to give students a chance to find the best price on required texts. He urged faculty to get book information out early.
 - d. There was a discussion of how to make sure that students actually buy books that are required, as it is very difficult to have students share books in class. This led to a discussion of e-books; most faculty believe that students at BC prefer hard copy books. Others wondered if we could get data on this topic. At BC, students print articles posted on Canvas, leading to increased printing costs on campus. It was noted that financial aid provides \$1000 per year toward books, but one course's books alone could cost \$400.
5. Provost's Report
- a. Tom Chiles has been leading a planning group to propose an Institute for Integrated Sciences and Society. This links to the conversation from earlier in the meeting about Social Entrepreneurship. Tom will speak at our next meeting in February.
 - b. David Quigley announced that BC has hired a new Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, Nanci Tessier. She is a BC alumna who has served as Vice President for Enrollment Management at the University of Richmond for the last 6 years, and will join us in July 2015.