**Academic Policies and Standards Committee**

MINUTES

November 16, 2011

Present: Koste, Wheatley, Lou, Hlady, Bedford, Giardina, Colgan, Beel-Bates, Alsabaagh, Miller, Vaughn

1. Welcome
2. **ECS Charge #3**: **The MLK Holiday**
3. Follow up from discussion of last meeting:
4. Vaughn advised group that ECS is open to EITHER a list of pros and cons on the MLK Holiday AND/OR a recommendation from this body.
5. Vaughn advised the committee that Mr. Montag did NOT intend to imply that the university “HAD TO” make up the MLK holiday if we chose to close on that day.
6. Vaughn shared a document put together by his grad assistant which gives a bit more perspective on our sister state institutions’ policies for making up (or not) the MLK holiday (see attached).
7. Vaughn shared Jeanne Arnold’s data on student participation at GVSU MLK events. [Information available on BB site].
8. Vaughn shared Philip Batty’s data on number of faculty and classes affected by taking the Monday holiday. [Information available on BB site].
9. Hlady shared information she acquired on students’ “use” of holiday at other [MI] institutions.

* n = 16 students; 11 in favor of closing on MLK Day and 5 not in favor.

1. Giardina reported on Deans’ counsel perspective on “pros and cons” of taking the MLK Holiday.

* No real consensus other than there is apparent favor toward NOT making the day up, if we elect to take the Holiday.

1. Giardina also shared management team’s perspective on the pros and cons question.

* This group is waiting to hear from APSC (and perhaps others) before responding to the question. They are hoping to gain insight from the various constituents on campus before responding.

1. The committee developed a list of pros and cons on the MLK Holiday issue. Those were:

PROS: [of closing the university on MLK Day]

1. Congruent with majority of public institutions.
2. Congruent with our strategic plan and vision.
3. Potential recruitment “tool” for faculty and students.
4. Affords equal opportunity for participation.
5. Supports an institutional level culture change.
6. Would provide off campus opportunities for students, faculty and staff.
7. Would afford numerous outreach opportunities for the university.
8. Would demonstrate a university value of inclusivity.

CONS: [of NOT closing the university on MLK Day]

1. Loss of class time
2. Impact on schedule of classes
3. Impact on grade posting
4. A projected cost to the University of ~ $50,000.
5. The committee voted on two motions as follows:
6. Motion #1: That the University close on the Martin Luther King Holiday and make it an official holiday at GVSU. Motion by Bedford; seconded by Koste. Motion carried 9-0 with no abstentions.
7. Motion #2: That the University NOT make up the class time lost as a result of MLK Day. Motion by Koste; second by Colgan. Motion carried 8-1 with no abstentions.

*The APSC offers the following rationale for the latter vote*:

1. Today’s “classroom” extends well beyond the four walls traditionally considered. Faculty now have multiple options available to them for offering alternative instructional sessions. The committee believes that these alternatives provide sufficient coverage of content “lost” to the MLK holiday.
2. The alternatives of: a) starting the semester early, b) making the day up at the end of the term, and c) not making the day up were all considered. Alternatives *a* and *b* provided considerable scheduling conflicts, not the least of which were significant impositions on the Registrar’s office and/or moving S/S term start dates.
3. Nancy Giardina presented a new issue to the committee. This had to do with the question of unduplicated credits for a major. Specifically: *“When a student wants to double major, how do you count the credits for each of the majors?”*

The committee considered the following questions:

1. *Should the student complete all of the requirements for both majors*? The committee offered unanimous consensus in favor of requiring that the student complete all of the requirements.
2. *If a student wants to double major, does that student need 30 unduplicated credits in both majors*?

The committee looked at this question related to a specific example from Engineering (where, apparently, this question comes up with some regularity) where a student wanted to double major in Mechanical Engineering and Product Development.

After some discussion, the committee tabled any response pending more investigation. Specifically, the committee would like to determine:

* Paul Plotkowski’s comments on the question: **Giardina** to follow up and offer Paul an opportunity to speak to APSC, as he might desire.
* The frequency at which the counting of credits for double majors is occurring. **Giardina** to determine for the committee.
* What is the maximum number of hours allowed for a degree minor? **Giardina** to determine for the committee.
* If UCC would allow a major of less than 30 credits? **Vaughn** to follow up on this question.

There was some discussion that this question may have been considered by APSC in the past. **Vaughn** to follow up.

1. Plan for next semester’s meetings: **Vaughn** to conduct email survey of group to determine this.
2. Adjourned at 5 pm.

Respectfully,

Dan Vaughn, Committee Chair AY 2011-2012

**Attachment**

**MLK HOLIDAY**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **# of Days in Fall Semester** | **# of Days in Winter Semester** | **Who Decides Day On/Off** | **Alternative Activities Scheduled** | **Changes to Calendar** |
| **Ferris State University** | 70 ½ days | 72 days | President’s Council | MLK Celebration Planning Committee organizes a series of events on campus | Added MLK day in replace of another holiday removed from their schedule |
| **Michigan State** | 70 days | 74 days | The Board of Trustee’s directs the Provost | Promote Commemorative Programs in Honor of the MLK Legacy | Begin class 2 days earlier than in the past |
| **Oakland University** | 63 days | 69 days |  | MLK day of service is organized for student participation | Day is built in and not made up |
| **U of M** | 65 days | 69 days |  | Events, speakers, and activities are held on campus in celebration of the day | Run classes until Tuesday at the end of the semester |
| **Wayne State** | 69 days | 70 days | President of the University | All campus offices are closed | One day (Monday) is added to the end of the semester |
| **Central Michigan** | 75 days | 72 days |  | Events are held on campus on this day | Correlates with Labor Day off in Fall semester, begin 2 days earlier than in the past |