**Academic Policies and Standards Committee**

Minutes

October 17, 2011

Present: Beel-Bates, Bedford, Alsabbagh, Giardina, Koste, Lou, Shinsky, Colgan, Hlady, Jeanne Arnold (guest), Marlene Kowalski-Braun (guest), Vaughn

1. Welcome
2. ECS Charge #3: MLK Holiday
3. Summary of discussion to date: Vaughn
4. Summary of email conversations on this topic: Vaughn

* James Moyer reported that the MLK Holiday would have no impact on Facilities.
* Lisa Haynes reported that there would be no impact on Pew security.
* Robert Adams reported that UCC had nothing to respond to on this topic yet, as there is little to do with curriculum.
* Larry Burns (FSBC): cost to University would be negligible if we close the university.
* Scott Richardson/Joe Godwin: if we are open, but hold no classes, the estimate would be an additional cost of $50K.

1. Feedback from APSC members’ survey of the individual Colleges (all members) – summarized by Chair:

* There was not a large response to the question of “pros and cons” of taking the MLK Holiday overall. Estimated number of those responding to our members’ inquiries is 30-50.
* Overall support for the holiday seems to prevail
* There is an approximately equal number of respondents who would suggest that we just “lose” the day (i.e., not make the day up) and those that would support the day off ***if*** we can make up the lost instructional time.

1. Jeanne Arnold: comments on the MLK holiday

* There are a number of national examples of what can be done to make this holiday more meaningful on our campus and in the larger community. Jeanne’s office, in cooperation with other groups on campus, has developed a vision for our own initiatives.
* Recognizing the holiday is essential for the university’s continued progress towards its strategic plan and would have strong symbolic meaning across all sectors.
* Logistical issues and concerns can be successfully addressed; there are numerous examples of this even across our own state.

1. Discussion of information gleaned to date from surveys, reports, and commentaries on the holiday

* The committee believes that we should focus on pros and cons and logistical concerns of the holiday and that ECS is not looking for a recommendation on whether to take the day as a holiday, or not. **DV to follow up on this**.
* The committee would like more information on the impact of taking the day off (no classes). How many classes/people are affected and how many of those classes meet once/week for multiple hours, especially. **DV to follow up.**
* The committee would like to know how students at other universities have responded to (and use) the holiday. **Jenny Hlady to follow up**.
* The committee would like to know how other universities have made the switch from no holiday to taking the holiday, in terms of making up the lost class time. **DV to follow up**.
* The committee would like to know how many students are participating with the events of MLK day at GVSU currently. **Jeanne Arnold to follow up**.
* The committee wants to know if the day HAS to be made up and if this is what Mr. Montag stated (need clarification). **DV to follow up**.
* The committee would like to know what alternatives exist, or can be adapted, that would allow us to make up the day. **DV to follow up**.
* The committee would like to know what the Deans’ position is on this issue, as far as the logistical implications for their Colleges. **DV to follow up**.
* No further action taken at this meeting on the MLK holiday pending review of the answers to these inquiries.

1. Marlene Kowalski-Braun: comments on the MLK holiday

* Hard to explain to community why we DON’T observe the holiday.

·      Recommend a “day on” rather than a “day off” that would allow us to acknowledge the importance of the civil rights movement and other contemporary social justice issues.

·      Value of a day that offers our community great pedagogical variety in addition to an opportunity to engage in service together.

·      Important to hear the voice of students that have been requesting movement on this issue for years.  This day allows students to engage in critical thinking and civic engagement; core to our work in higher education

1. No other business presented at this meeting
2. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.
3. Next meeting: Nov 16 from 3:00- 5:00 pm (KC 1142)

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Vaughn, Chair

APSC 2011-2012 AY