

AALT Meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2014
10:00 AM PDR

Present: Bill Heineman, Sharon McDermot, Chuck Phair, Shar Wolff, Linda Shea, Ellen Wentland, Grace Young, Mary Farrell, Nancy Garcia, Pat Demers, Mark Reinhold, Diane Zold-Gross, Donna Bertolino, guests Sue Tashjian, Jody Carson, Perry Lara

I. Textbook Taskforce (Jody and Sue)

Update: TT started in fall 2012 as a result of student concerns over high cost and low use of textbooks. Members of Task Force included faculty, staff (CIT, FA, Advising, etc), students, administrators, bookstore managers and admin support.

Student members of TT, survey done (308 responses). Textbook prices up 82% since 2002. Average student spends \$1168 on text books annually.

FA Lending Library—faculty can donate extra copies of text books so that students can borrow them for free. Fall promotion of this option will be big. Also, copies can be ‘on reserve’ in the library.

Pilot project--\$5000 stipend for 5 courses based on greatest savings for students for faculty who agreed to forgo text books and use other options. Connection to CCCOER (community college consortium of open education resources) has been huge and is growing nationally...faculty have access. Course redesign sometimes isn't huge, but in some cases, faculty are creating their own text. If not using publisher's text, cannot use test bank, PowerPoints or any other publisher materials, so those pieces must be recreated in another way. In the pilot there is an estimated \$52,876 savings to students. New materials created and pulled together must be shared among our faculty and the CCOR, which allows other faculty to save their students money as well.

Proposal: Looking for funds to find a way to expand the project. A suggestion is to allow faculty to take college service to redesign these courses, and looking for support from deans.

Quality Matters Rubric---looks at course objectives, course design, accessibility and other aspects (applied to online course, but applicable to OER initiative as well even in face to face). Faculty using this are not only reducing use of textbooks, but actually improving their courses!

II. Summer Cancellations

Bill went over enrollments for sections to determine cancellations.

III. Articulation Agreements (Perry Lara)

With vocation schools, sometimes trouble with transfer of credits. Statewide initiatives have not assured that courses (such as CAD) that were given credit when student came

into NECC necessarily transfer to the four-year institution. Students end up having to pay full price to take the course they already got credit for through articulation credit at NECC. A few colleges, like Northeastern, take Prior Learning credits, but not from high school...because of accreditation. BH—Learning outcomes at NECC need to be crystal clear, and student needs to have proof of competency before we can address a discount.

Grace/Bill: Could do this only with students with articulated credits coming in (in limited areas), to register for the class, do a project, sit in a number of classes, and take the final exam. Taking a challenge exam, having it come through as transfer when they apply to a four-year...they find the credit doesn't transfer because the transcript tracks back to high school course...and that cannot be transferred. Faculty in Chuck/Shar's division are already looking at transcripts, and looking at (Acct, Intro to Bus, CIS, Art) what is matched up from articulated course from technical high schools compared to our courses...Common Learning Outcomes! Up to 18 credits. The competencies students achieve need to be laid out and documented so that if UMASS Lowell were to ask exactly how we know that student who does above is as competent in learning outcomes as a student who sat in the whole class and did all the work. Must be consistent, clear and documented. In order for a course to be considered, all faculty teaching that course would need to agree on the outcomes and ways to measure them, or that course couldn't be considered, because a Chair would have to sign off on outcomes in the articulation agreement with a voc school, assuring that the outcomes are aligned with our courses.

Valor Act – policy written by deadline by Grace and colleagues to BHE...mandated. We need to have it prominently shown on our website.

IV. Other Business