QV Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2025

Members Present: J. Spjut (President), S Buchbinder (Vice President), B. Kaufman (Curriculum Coordinator); B. Alves; J. Andersen; B. Clinton; D. Hernandez; N. Germain; K. Griffiths T. Greer; M. Hall; L. Kelley; J. Knapp; P. Lemieux, C. Ling-Chaun; B. Lynch; E. Michalski; J. Oliver; M. Philion; T. Shizume; S. Van Orden; D. Walsh

1. Meeting convened at 2:12 pm and review of previous minutes.
   a. Correction: Change next meeting date to April 21 (from 28).
   b. Send additional revisions to Jakob.
1. Academic Program Review and General Education Assessment info – Brian Donohue-Lynch
   a. Two different cycles of assessment and review will be starting up in the fall—pending further evaluation in discussion with the Provost in the next few days (April 22-23).
      i. **The General Education Committee** has established a cycle of review for courses that are listed as meeting certain general education outcomes requirements, and one part of the cycle will begin in the fall. The first round involves courses that meet the general education Oral Communication, and Historical Knowledge and Understanding requirements. For the first year, people teaching these courses will not be expected to assess for these outcomes, but to be part of the preparation for assessing them in the following year.
      ii. **The Assessment Council** is likewise establishing a cycle of program review and assessment for a specific set of programs, to begin in the fall. These programs **will be assessed** starting in the fall, with the assistance of coordinators chosen and aligned with each program area. The programs involved in this first round of reviews will be discussed with program coordinators in a meeting during the first week of May.
      iii. The Assessment Council will be discussing these two cycles with Karen Hynick on Tuesday to address some concerns about having them running concurrently. Once these questions are clarified with the Provost, more details will follow to the campuses.
      iv. Will be a presentation to Program Chairs in the first week in May.
         1. Still in process. It's unclear how this will look like in AR/RT time commitment.

2. Online Course Assessment question – Brian Donohue-Lynch
   a. There was an online training for certification of teaching online (BPOP). It's been two years since information has been shared about the certification process.

b. Need for training and assessment
  a. There is a varying quality of online courses (e.g., some courses all As & Bs and little work) and there isn't good online course assessment.
  b. Proposed two-part process to improve online teaching.
    i. People previously trained grandfathered in and train new people (BPOP)
    ii. If poor evaluation, retrained.
  c. How to evaluate online courses
    i. Current evaluation misses parts of the online environment including facilitation and engagement.
    ii. Educational technologists have a proposed evaluation but need to be vetted considering faculty contracts.
c. Blackboard Ultra will be available this fall to trained faculty.
  a. Ultra use will not be required until 2027. Faculty will need 4--5 Ultra training courses.
    i. Course shells made need to be remade/partially copied because the architecture is different (e.g. only 2 folders deep)
  b. To make new online courses, you can request AR or release time. This is beyond making a new shell. Check the faculty contract.

3. Presidential Search update, from faculty rep Jess Porzuczek:
  a. "We are reviewing candidates now. Advisory committee semifinalist interviews will happen on April 23rd and 24th." She also includes a quote from CT State on the process:
  b. "Finalists for CT State Quinebaug Valley and Three Rivers Campus President will visit campus and participate in forums with faculty/staff, students, managers, and foundation and community leaders. Following these forums, the candidates will interview with President Maduko who ultimately will select the preferred candidate after considering input from campus feedback forms and reference checks. It is anticipated that the selected campus presidents will begin in their roles on July 1, 2025."

5. Academic Senate election Announcement – should have run in March (according to bylaws) but was postponed due to possible shared governance revision. This serves as the official announcement:
  a. Positions Up for Election
    1. **President**: Pres. Jakob Spjut is completing his 2-year term (1st term of 2 consecutive allowed). Anybody may run for President. Jakob solicited people to run for president and expressed an interest to step down, but will serve if there isn't another candidate.
    2. **Vice President**: Vice Pres. Shelley Buchbinder is completing her 1-year term (2nd term of 3 consecutive allowed). Anybody but Jakob Spjut may run for Vice President.
    3. **Email Jakob Spjut to run or ask questions**. Members can campaign for positions.
  b. Positions Not Up for Election

1. **Curriculum Coordinator** Brian Kaufman is finishing the 1st year of his 2-year term (1st term of 2 consecutive allowed). He will continue in that role in 2025-2026.
   c. **Online Election will be held before 5/19** Meeting (run by Brian Kaufman):
      1. Everyone eligible must be on the ballot (except Jakob for VP due to bylaws) and anyone explicitly running will be bolded or starred.
      2. Proposed that the Curriculum Coordinator and President will alternate running the elections the years they aren't running for office.

6. Campus Safety Discussion
   a. There have been multiple additional security officers hired on campus (e.g., doodling on boards, locked doors) vs unmet needs (e.g., no IT staff on campus after 3 pm).
   b. **Anyone interested in this issue should contact Jakob Spjut.**

7. Next meeting **May 19th 2025**

8. The meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm.

Minutes prepared by S. Buchbinder