

11-1-11

Education Leaders Forum
Program Managers Meeting

Present: John Miazga, Ann Bullion-Mears, Kim Livengood, Deborah Banker, Mary McGlamery, Richard Evans, Richard Bain, Amy Williamson, Alaric Williams, Chris Purkiss, Jim, Summerlin, Linda Lucksinger, Marilyn Eisenwine

The dean brought up that our last meeting suggested we have a webinar with TaskStream. However, we need to wait until data is collected at the end of the semester. Then we can use the data when simulating the reporting.

Dec. 2nd meeting is our Data Conference in the ASU Alumni Center. The EPI Center is putting together a Data Book for us to review and analyze for program improvement. We will be sure we have specific outcomes for the day, with general data and program specific data.

Today we will look at various groups and how things are going.

Most of the CPRs are done for the graduate students this semester. The dean asked, "What is the overall impression as to how they are going and if we are getting what we need?"

Dr. Summerlin stated it was a lot of work with a lot of work to be done in a short period of time. If programs continue to grow, this will be hard to do in the future, especially in a weeks' time. They are sending out a questionnaire to Candidates for feedback.

The dean said with core curriculum courses being expanded, there will be expanded faculty involvement.

Dr. McGlamery said they were not allowed to choose their committee this time, as they have done in the past.

Dr. Gee asked if we could get more faculty as the program grows. The dean said C&I are in a good position to get more faculty.

Dr. Summerlin said they are having trouble finding qualified faculty to bring in and hire.

He said the CPR is a good experience for their students. It does bring a good closure to their program. It is so much work and uncompensated time for them. They do not want to go back to an exam. They do not want to do the Reflection that the grad school does. They are discussing doing a thesis. Some faculty members said that might be more work.

Dr. Summerlin said they are moving toward 5 foundational classes.

One will be Research. They could start their thesis there, then have a Capstone course where they complete it. Class sizes would have to go down to 13 or so whereas they carry 70 per semester in Research now. They would then do much of the work up front and get paid for the courses. Dr. Evans suggested a small conference on a weekend to give candidates much of the information. He said some professional organizations use this approach.

Dr. Summerlin said other small colleges in our area do something like this. Lamar has a good sized one. The Southwest Research Association does this also.

Dr. Livengood said they could be online conferences for those who could not attend.

They did use an online meeting format this time, but it was cumbersome and took even more time to get set up, etc.

Dr. Miazga said we might actually lose students who do not want to do a thesis. He said we might say it's an independent research project. What would be a culminating experience with the faculty member?

Dr. Summerlin said the research project could be an applied research project in the schools where they are working.

Dr. Gee asked about the research. Would it be a thesis including IRB approval if so.

Dr. Miazga said this was not necessarily a bad thing.

Dr. Evans said the smaller research projects are perfect for the Special Ed. candidates because case studies, etc. are what they will be doing in their actual career.

Dr. Lucksinger gave examples of research projects her students have done in the Research graduate course she teaches.

Dr. Gee asked if we might consider a course we currently do not have for a capstone course to finish up a research project started in the foundation research course. The numbers of students per course would have to be small.

Dr. Lucksinger likes the idea of a capstone course because it can be program specific to show they demonstrate they have the competencies and skills they should have.

Dr. Miazga said it wouldn't be that difficult to complete the projects in the capstone course. There would have to be school or university IRB approval. The capstone course would have to tie back to the Research course.

Dr. Evans said we could also have a handbook to be sure students know what to expect during their program and at the end.

Dr. Alaric said that would also make it easier for those not in a school setting. Their projects could be structured for their areas of interest and/or degree they are seeking.

Dr. Banker asked what the timeline would be for the restructuring.

Dr. Summerlin said he is looking at spring 2013.

Dr. Miazga said Teacher Ed. has now collapsed their graduate programs down to 2 degree programs. This will make it easier to restructure programs as a progression rather than taking courses whenever they want.

He also asked about any Distance Ed. concerns.

Dr. Banker said there are out of state people beginning to apply. Dr. Summerlin said he is on the committee to allow us to do Distance Ed. across the country. It's not easy to achieve, but we have time to work on it. We have to present information on a web page so that anyone can read the material. There will be a place to call and file a grievance with us saying that we don't belong in their state.

Dr. Miazga said these are new Dept. of Ed. regulations. These were passed in Oct. 2010. Institutions must get permission to offer courses within each state that there is a student. It is all over the board what states are charging. Some states already have laws that if we have a student from their state, we have to comply with certain regulations. Right now, we have information on our website to begin to comply with these regulations, but it is the university's responsibility to comply. We are providing the necessary information on our website at this time. Angelo.edu does have information about our online programs. It is not well done and is hard to find. There is a university committee looking at this now. Other universities, such as the University of Houston has a completely different set up than their regular university website. We looked at their site on the big screen. They have a link for "Important Notice for Out-of-State Students." This is what is required at this point.

Dr. Purkiss asked how we get permission from other states.

Dr. Summerlin has begun to do this already.

Dr. Miazga has done 2 surveys for the Coordinating Board. They looked at every state and what it cost to be approved in that state. He filled out a report about what states require. Texas is just now beginning to pay attention to this. The Coordinating Board would seek reciprocity with all the states, then it would not cost us anything. Another regulation wanted information for square footage of space required to offer an online course. They measured offices and turned in information.

SACS also has specific requirements for online offering. The dean has already begun to work on this as well. He chairs the University Council for Distance Education.

Dr. Summerlin says the Univ. of Phoenix pulls online students in right away and does a very good job.

Our graduate applications are up to 180 for spring, but only a

few have been processed. Most are missing some materials. This is not student friendly. It discourages students from applying.

Dr. Purkiss asked about international students.

Dr. Summerlin said he thinks this is a big market. We need to take the Texas out of our programs. The market is there for Indian and Chinese students. These are English language markets. Dr. Evans has already been contacted.

Dr. Summerlin said they are going to be doing 8 week courses for Distance Ed. The International Students will want to come to the US for an 8 week session.

Dr. Evans said English courses might also be offered.

Dr. Purkiss asked if the Security Studies was doing this same thing.

Dr. Miazga said they are focused on military and if their point of contact is on base, these rules don't apply.

The University of Houston includes a free survey that gives you an immediate response to see if you are a good candidate for online learning. Their site is more course specific and does not mention programs.

Also for SACS we must show what services are available for online students.

Dr. Miazga said this was a great discussion, and we are accomplishing what we set out for this committee.

Dr. Banker announced that a Second Life Training invitation on how to dress your avatar was sent out for Nov. 17. We may also attend her students' Second Life Presentations from 7:00-9:00pm on Nov. 29.

Dr. Bain asked about access to TEXES scores for his students. Only Dr. Williamson has gotten access and several faculty faxed forms multiple times. The dean said to get him your name, and he will send a group question to SBEC.