SFSU English Department Minutes
Tuesday Feb 7, 2017
11-Noon, HUM 484

Attending: P. Abeywickrama, J. Gilligan, S. Goen-Salter, G. Green, J. Holland, N. Lindeman, T. Lockhart, D. Olsher, L. Heyer

New Business

• Review role of EAB in BA Redesign (Teagle Committee)
  o BA Redesign –
    ▪ As a large dept. we have monthly EAB meetings instead of monthly full faculty meetings.
      • EAB members need to communicate action items to all programs & entities.
    ▪ Make sure all faculty are informed.
      • People can participate by having EAB reps voice concerns, etc.
      • Teagle Committee is made up of faculty from each wing of the department, and staffers as well
    ▪ Points will come to EAB for approval before going to full department for ratification
      • Mission Statement – Dept. chair conducts an annual assessment report
        ▪ PLOs (program learning outcome) updates are necessary
        ▪ Mission Statement & PLOs need to be on website
  • Waiting for deadline
  • Assessment – student artifacts? Self-assessment?
  • We have a new English Dept. undergrad student association (thx to Amanda Bent), with Summer Star as faculty advisor—at some point, we hope to bring them in to help advise the Teagle committee

• Student Success (Graduation) Initiative– Major push from Chancellor’s office to increase student graduation rate. All colleges are being compelled to submit a plan.
  o Each College and dept. is given a target goal
  o According to the data, LCA is on target
  o Budgeting will be tied to these statistics
  o Goal is 69% (pg 3)
  o One reason why there is such a relatively healthy grad rate is because we’re only counting transfer students
  o Sugie wants to look at attrition from enrolled freshman.
  o Traditional approach is when students are sorted by their major, declared when first applying
  o For some reason, people who change their majors tend to graduate sooner rather than later.
  o When advising students, most browsers don’t support looking at transcripts; this needs to be updated.
• URM = Underrepresented Minorities
  • Graphs include first-time freshmen AND transfer
  • We could ask if students are repeating courses
  • Summer school – It’s expensive/prohibitive, students pay the same for 1 as for multiple courses.
  • Real Solution: Increase grad rates AND narrow the achievement gap
• For NEXT EAB: How can we get information?
  • Sugie asked John Holland to talk to lecturer colleagues & ask how we could gather data from first-year courses (Tara & John have already done some of this)
    Some students transfer, some leave because of financial issues, cost of housing, etc.
• Jim Gilligan asked if it would it be possible to survey students at some strategic point within their program?
• Sugie recently attended the Assoc. of American Colleges & Univ. (Univ. of Texas). They presented their survey to students as 3 commitments:
  o 1) financial,
  o 2) advising,
  o 3) belonging
• Suggested data to look for: 1st & 2nd year students: what was hard? Easy? Why?
• When are students encountering the major?
• Objective: faculty need to know what to do – clarify
• Gap between students who haven’t committed to a major and those that have:
  o Some universities (UT) take into account non-academic student hindrances (economic!)
• What information can we think of as a dept.
  o Barriers that English students have?
  o Surveys that would actually work

NEW BUSINESS: End-of-Spring Department Meeting: Friday May 26, 10am-11a.m.

English Commencement directly following at 12 noon