**Minutes of the Spring All Faculty Meeting**

March 26, 2015

Classroom Building 203

Faculty Chair Rod Rice called the meeting to order shortly after 4 pm. There were 27 members of the faculty present, including Interim Provost Sinden.

**Discussion focus**

Dr. Rice identified four main issues for discussion: the SDSMT budget, common examination scheduling, system general education review, and the credential of readiness (CORe) program.

***Finances:*** Mr. Steve Malott, Vice President for Finance and Administration, distributed a spreadsheet showing some of the issues related to the $2.5 million loan that SDSMT had to take out from the Board of Regents (BoR). This loan must be repaid and the reserve fund rebuilt to an appropriate level within three years. To do this SDSMT must run a minimum surplus of $1.5 million during the current fiscal year. Currently, the school is on track for $1.62 million surplus, but that only leaves about $120,000 for all emergency needs prior to June 30, 2015.

Although no consensus exists concerning projected SDSMT student enrollments for AY 2015-16, the most likely scenario is that enrollments will be relatively flat or possibly decrease by approximately 1%. The BoR had approved a 5.7% tuition increase and has allowed SDSM&T to charge discipline fees leading to an overall 7% increase in student costs.

The SD State Legislature approved a 2% salary raise and the BoR was able to increase this to 3% for next fiscal year. Currently, 2015-16 TA funds are expected to be unchanged from this year.

*Question*: How did we get in this situation?

*Answer*: Rapid investment versus payback from new faculty in terms of research grants and contracts. SDSMT also lost a few major research contracts and traditionally has not kept a large reserve fund.

*Question*: Can the monthly revenue sheets, like the one passed out during this meeting, be available to the faculty?

*Answer*: Yes, Mr. Malott will make arrangements to get the data to the Faculty Senate.

*Question*: Has this issue been discussed with students, community and parents?

*Answer*: Student leadership knows of the issue, and the Student Senate had been informed, as they have some spending restrictions as well.

*Question*: Why were lab and ESF fees folded together?

*Answer*: The intent is to use these fees in similar ways. Lab fees not used for salaries may be relaxed.

***Common Examination Scheduling****:* Dr. Rice circulated a handout outlining a solution proposed by the Common Exam Subcommittee to the scheduling problem. This covered moving common exams to MW 6-7:30PM TH 7-7:50; rescheduling “Golden” or “Activity Time”—the time when departments cannot schedule a required single-section class to MW 4-6:00 PM and TTH 5-7:00 PM; prohibiting single-section required courses during “Golden Time”; implementing priority registration for athletes and others using “Golden Time”; and updating Policy II-3, *Common Exam Scheduling* to reflect these changes.

*Discussion:* Discussion focused on overlap of “Golden Time” with the 2-5:00 PM laboratory time, required courses versus elective courses, and whether the times suggested were temporary or permanent.

A related issue involved scheduling of the new Wellness Center gymnasiums, particularly during the overlap of volleyball, basketball, and early morning practices in the fall, for which a second “Golden Time” may be needed.

*Outcomes:* The proposed changes will be evaluated by the Common Exam Subcommittee, the Senate, the Provost, and Department Heads before final implementation takes place.

***General Education and Institutional Graduation Requirements Review***: Drs. Feiszli and DeVeaux, the SDSMT representatives to the Board of Regents Committee on General Education, provided an update on this committee’s work.

The committee has been reviewing a variety of models of how various institutions handle general education. So far, the committee has had numerous conference calls and an 8 April meeting is scheduled to discuss which key elements should be included in the general education program and how to assess them. At the present time, South Dakota uses the CAAP examination, which many believe is a weak assessment tool for SDSMT students.

Drs. DeVeaux and Feiszli also discussed distribution and non-distribution models. Both were impressed with the LEAP model used in California, Wisconsin, and several other states. The committee has also studied the WICHE transport for transferability model, which is included within the LEAP model.

Concerning questions about course transfers, the General Education Committee has been considering whether it is better to track students (as we do now) or to track stated course outcomes. For instance, Interstate Passport uses a comprehensive list of outcomes to determine where a course from one school would fit at another school.

South Dakota is in the second stage of the process now and is trying to determine what methods best fit our needs for the system. However, any Committee recommendations are unlikely to be implemented before the 2016-2017 Academic year.

***Credential of Readiness (CORe):*** Dr. Rice discussed the Credential of Readiness (CORe) pilot program President Wilson arranged with the Harvard Business School. This program is offered online, targets non-business majors (juniors and seniors), uses case study pedagogy, starts in April and runs 11 weeks, and includes an evaluation team coordinated by Dr. Kate Alley. Two students—Kelsey Hibl (IE) and Harrison Costello (GEOE)--have been selected to partake in the pilot study.

*Questions:* Why was this curriculum decision made without input from faculty? How was the evaluation team selected? Have the chosen students completed any SDSMT or SD university courses having similar content?

*Answers*: At the time of the meeting, no answers were known to these questions.

Dr. Rice adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.