



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY™

December 2024 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Dec 4th, 2024, 9:00am - 10:30am

Hardway 219 and TEAMS

Attendees: Michael Davis, Brian Selmeski, Gina Fantasia, Riley Neal, Jon Dodds, Janna Bredeson, George Wolf, Alicia Kalka, Mary Sortino, Susan Ross, Drew Paton, Cheryl Lewis, Trish DeNoon

Attendance via Teams: Wendy Adkins, David Goldberg, Jessica Sharps

Absent: Kevin Rogers

A. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. by Wendy Adkins
- b. Adkins welcomed Susan Ross as the Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

B. Action Item: Master's in healthcare management degree Designation Change

- a. Dr. Ross informed attendees that the designation change aligns with industry standards
- b. Dr. Ross stated that Dr. Alvarez has realigned the program to include more of the leadership portion of the degree
- c. This program is also in the planning stages of developing a micro credential
- d. Dr. Ross introduced Mary Sortino, Director of Graduate Studies, and Professional Education
 - i. Dr. Sortino brings seven years of experience with her in the new role
- e. Dr. Sortino mentioned that this will also allow additional opportunities for accreditation
- f. Dr. Fantasia mentioned that this designation and name change is better understood in the industry and helps clarify what the degree is in
- g. Paton also agrees that the name change is important to the students and industry

C. Information Item: Accelerated Degree Programs

- a. Dr. Ross stated that the 4+1 degrees are in the planning stages
- b. During the Spring 2024 term a policy was developed for the accelerated degree and the parameters for them
- c. It allows undergraduate students to take graduate degree courses once they have completed minimum of 70 hours undergraduate credits and have a minimum 3.3 overall GPA
- d. The students are able to take 12 credit hours of graduate courses as an undergraduate student if admitted

- e. This will help with the retention of our undergraduate students
- f. As of now there are accelerated programs being planned for Criminal Justice, Business Administration to MBA, Healthcare Management
- g. This is in compliance with HLC policies
- h. Dr. Sortino mentioned that having this program saves students time and money
- i. The courses are taken at the undergraduate level costs of tuition
- j. Colleges are working on a plan that allows a lot of flexibility
- k. Paton mentioned that this will allow students to graduate earlier and will cost the institution money
 - i. Dr. Fantasia stated that it would, but it will keep students here that may not have stayed otherwise to get their Graduate degree which ends up making the institution money
 - 1. They are hoping that it will be an enrollment driver
 - ii. Wolf mentioned that if you don't have a student enrolled there is more of a loss than if some graduate early
 - iii. Dr. Davis stated that this is also a benefit to Veterans as they will be able to use benefits to help while taking graduate courses

D. Information Item: Master's in Nursing Program

- a. Dr. Ross informed the attendees that the institution is looking into the state of the current program and the future of nursing within the next few years
- b. Dr. Ross and Dr Struth met with a group from United Hospital Center this week about clinical placement and the preparedness of the students
- c. The institution will be looking at the current associate degree and looking into a feasibility study
- d. A current challenge is the lack of pedagogy which makes the retention of nursing faculty difficult
- e. At this time, starting in Spring 2025 there will be a feasibility study done as well as an intent to plan
 - i. The study will look at the demand, existing programs, concentrations, and provision
 - ii. There are currently 1,000 nursing positions open, and we need to help fill them
 - iii. Two areas of emphasis we will look at will be Forensic Nursing and Nursing Education
 - 1. Bredeson asked if anyone else in the state has these programs
 - a. Dr. Ross stated that there are not

E. Information Item: Academic Calendar

- a. Dr. Ross stated that Dr. Phillips had put together a committee to develop an academic calendar
 - i. The academic calendar affects athletics, clinical placements, school placements, etc. not just the classroom
 - ii. The charge was to develop a Three-year calendar

- iii. It will be 16 weeks with two eight-week parts of term
- iv. The committee will also be developing guidelines on how to create the calendar
- v. There has been a calendar created, and it will be presented to the Deans Council, Academic Leadership Team, Advising Representatives, Institutional Effectiveness, Faculty Senate, and the Board of Governors

F. Information Item: Academic Restructuring Update

- a. Dr. Ross informed everyone that the Academic Restructuring has been placed on pause until the new Provost has been named. However, this does not mean that we are pausing the work being done within Academic Affairs
- b. It is important that we develop an Academic Plan that will play a part in the restructuring of Academic Affairs
- c. In mid-October, a group of individuals within Academic Affairs attended an online workshop presented by SCUP on creating a plan for Academic Affairs
 - i. One of the main things that needs to be done is to make sure that the plan aligns with the vision of the institution
 - ii. We need to look at the core curriculum, course enrollments and what the success rates are in key courses
- d. Dr. Selmeski stated that planning needs to start soon, but that the new Provost needs to be involved. This is just the start of the process.
 - i. In January we will meet with EAB about building smart objectives and then an exemplary plan
 - ii. No decisions will be made without the new Provost being involved
 - iii. Dr. Fantasia stated that this will be a time of research on topics for which decisions need to be made

G. Information Item: Faculty Affairs – Promotion and Tenure Update

- a. The College of Liberal Arts, the College of Nursing, and the College of Science & Technology have individuals who are up for Promotion and tenure
- b. We have one individual at this time who has applied for sabbatical
- c. Dr. Ross stated that faculty are reaching out and receiving grants to provide educational opportunities for our students
- d. Dr. Ross mentioned that we have had some recognized nationally through the accreditation process, which is a huge achievement
- e. Faculty grants, research, and publications have an impact on what we are able to offer our students

H. Adjournment

- a. Commended Dr. Ross for thinking strategically and providing this information
- b. Goldberg said that we need this kind of transparency in an environment that shows we support them, we need to be looking at what we can do to maximize the investments for the university.
- c. Adkins adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:44 a.m.



Wendy G. Adkins, Committee Chair

12/9/2024

Date