Arts and Sciences Council of Chairs

Thursday, October 9, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 am

245 Patterson Office Tower

New FMER form

Associate Dean Ted Schatzki discussed FMERs and the new additions this year. Those additions are teaching and advising sections.

Improvement Action Plans and Strategic Plans

Associate Dean Anna Bosch informed the group that the undergraduate and graduate IAPs are due October 31, 2014. Also due that day are the strategic planning reports. The Dean’s Office will send you, your DUS and DGS information on these specific items.

Honorary Doctorates

Dean Kornbluh encouraged department to nominate qualified scholars in their disciplines.

Report to University on Bottleneck Classes

The University supplied the College with a report indicating sections which had greater than 25% DEW rates. Although only 111 sections of the 3600 taught by A&S showed up on the report, the College was asked to respond with goals on how to decrease these numbers and increase student success. The College took this report very seriously and worked with the department chairs to produce a thoughtful, comprehensive reply. A few key topics of concern and areas in which we plan to address were 1) the science requirement for non-science majors and 2) the universities policy on grades, withdraw date, and our advisors. We were to exclude from the report national trends and student preparedness. The group had a very engaging conversation on student success, instructional approaches, and interventions during freshman year.

Discussion of next steps on Graduate Education

The College has devoted this year to rethinking graduate education. The Deans Office is working with DGSs, Chairs, and other faculty leadership to examine how to keep A&S graduate programs competitive while maintaining the proper workloads, stipends, and instructional mix. The College plans to hold open discussion forums, symposiums, and/or speaker series. Additionally, a committee will be created to focus efforts on interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary graduate education.

Other

* Stephanie Morris briefed the college on the Universities United Way Campaign.
* Faculty are strongly encouraged to send out the early academic alerts
* Faculty must get their midterm grades into the system