

STL Meeting Agenda

March 14, 2008

1. Approve minutes from 2/29/08
2. Announcements:
 - a. EMSP faculty representative for next year
 - b. EC candidates will be on campus Monday.
 - i. Vita's are in Diane's office
 - ii. Attendance at lunch 11:30 for Beth Achter (Union 216)
 - iii. Presentations are 10:30 AM in room 7; Beth will teach a Play class
 - iv. Val's presentation will be 2:30 pm in room 202 on her research.
 - v. APAC opening
 - vi.
3. Dragon Core-Jean Sando
4. Chair Nomination and discussion

School of Teaching and Learning
Meeting Minutes: Mar. 14, 2008

Present: Karen Danbom (Chair), Jean Sando (Guest), Peggy Rittenhouse, Doris Walker-Dalhouse, Ok-Hee Lee, Coleen Roller,
John Benson, Barb Wroman, Chiuchu Chuang, Deb Pullen, Solveig Bartz, Susan Severson, Brian Smith, Layna Cole, Renee Kerzman, Erin Gillett, Dean Mollerud, Lisa Staiger, Heather Sand, Steve Grineski, Lynn Mahlum, Diane Cople.

The minutes of Feb. 29, 2008, were approved with one correction.

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Jean Sando was our guest today. She presented on Dragon Core. **Dragon Core** is designed to develop engaged students who are aware of their diverse world and physical environment and who know how to interact productively and ethically with others in today's changing world.

The Inner Cluster offers a sampling of introductory courses and provides a base of knowledge -- The Foundation Four. The knowledge acquired in the Foundation Four is applied and extended across disciplines in the Middle Cluster and culminates with integrated application of knowledge in the Outer Cluster.

The liberal studies program sunsets in the summer of 2009. Students who need more time to complete that program should see Jean Sando, but we were encouraged to work with these students so they get through their liberal studies in a timely manner.

More information on the Dragon Core can be found on the website: <http://www.mnstate.edu/acadaff/dragoncore/>.

Karen explained the procedures for nominating a new chair. She asked the nominees to prepare a one page information sheet on themselves. Diane will take notes. Voting will be on Monday and Tuesday, Mar. 17 and 18. Coleen Roller will count the votes, and Barb Worman will be Coleen's back-up. Voting can be by e-mail or hard copy.

Karen asked for nominations. Peggy Rittenhouse and Sue Severson are the nominees. Nominations were closed.

Discussion:

Q1. What can we expect for future direction? What are your strengths as an organizational leader and what area need improvement?

Sue Severson: As an instructor in the SPED department, I obviously know SPED better than EECE and Foundations. As chair, I would like to define a dual major in SPED and EECE. As chair, I would like to see direction come from faculty. Faculty need to have autonomy. A leadership team, and program coordinators are a very important to the future of STL. As a strength, I have been at MSUM for a long time. I know the review process and expectations for the retention of instructors. I believe in facilitating progress.

Peggy Rittenhouse: My weakness is physical organization. It is not a key strength. I am a "big picture" person and future oriented. I plan to have the faculty work together on declining enrollement. We need to bring in more students. We need to use the technology available to us and give our candidates more opportunities. I also believe in offering a double major, but in General Education and SPED. We need to do more research on

helping students learn, do more to help our students understand technology. We need to work together to plan goals. Think more outside the box to help our students. Expand the student teaching abroad program.

Q2. What areas do you need to work on in the leadership role?

PR: I need to be able to let go, and understand that everything cannot be done at once.

Q2.a. (Karen Danbom directed this to Peggy Rittenhouse.) How do your responsibilities with NCATE align with being the chair of STL? What consistency will there be?

PR: NCATE has a strong committee with 50 members. The duties as NCATE coord. Will mesh well with the duties as chair. Eventually, I would like a sabbatical, but recognize that changes in the department will determine the timing of any possible sabbatical.

SS: I have never held a leadership position at MSUM. I know it will be my demise if I don't have concerns for our organization and our accomplishments. I work efficiently on my projects. I will give more support to faculty for success on their projects.

Q3. What are your views on curriculum and revisions? With the ED 205 changes, STL was not really involved.

SS: There seems to be decisions made without faculty knowledge. The new STL structure would address this. With three coordinators and a chair, there would be frequent meetings and hopefully that could be avoided. The key is to find a way to have efficiency without losing your autonomy. Make sure everyone has a voice.

PR: Curriculum committees are needed. We are all in this together and there needs to be input from all perspectives. We need to look at the curriculum to make decisions. We also need to find ways to work smarter. Use creative scheduling for face to face meetings or on-line. Everyone needs to be invited to discussions on curriculum changes.

Q4: What do you see as your obligation to meet professional development?

PR: I don't have a structure for professional development. Let's develop a plan for need. C and I program is an example of being too spread out and overlapping. We need to restrict options so there is not so much overlapping.

SS: Presentation at conferences is also professional development. Do we have a responsibility to the local school districts? We need to prioritize our resources. Evaluate our opportunities. I believe professional development offers excellent opportunities.

Q5. What about adjuncts?

PR: We don't have much say in how many adjuncts we have. We need to bring people in who have current knowledge. We do need to get them to see themselves as university members.

SS: We have too many adjuncts, and that is not good for the program. We are always going to have adjuncts, and planned adjuncts are important. We need to have an evaluation system in place for adjuncts.

Voting will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Mar. 17 and 18.

Meeting adjourned: 4:55 pm

Respectfully submitted: Diane Copple