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CWU Academic Affairs Committee Minutes - 01 / 29 / 09

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Minutes
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee
January 29, 2009

Present: Kim Bartel, Thomas Tenerelli, Caitlin Baldwin, Krystal Noga, Sura Rath and Marla Wyatt.

Absent: Joe Brooks and Tim Englund

Guest(s): Tracy Terrell and Scott Carlson

Meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by chair Kim Bartel.

Minutes of January 22, 2009 were approved as amended.

Old Business:

AACo8-09.02 Add letter grade definitions to the Academic Policy Manual and the course catalog.

Tracy indicated that the transcript does have letter grade definitions. Tracy will send a copy of that language. Committee will discuss more about this charge at the next meeting.

AACo8-09.03 Review block scheduling for impact on General Education course and others. Guests: Tracy Terrell and Scott Carlton

Kim gave some of the history of the block scheduling policy. It was decided in April 2007 to pilot a process of upper division courses being allowed to block schedule at anytime during the day.

Janet gave the committee some background on the current concerns regarding block scheduling and unintended consequences from the policy. Tracy Terrell and Scott Carlson both indicated they have experienced problems with students getting caught not being able to get into traditional 50 minute courses because of block scheduling of upper division courses. Tracy indicated she would provide the committee with some data regarding which departments regularly block schedule and when. Tracy did indicate that reversing the policy may have consequences as well with room scheduling as well as department pedagogy of courses.

The committee talked about comments they have heard about possible cost savings changes and how this might affect block scheduling. No further discussion will take place until the university decides what cost savings changes, such as a 4 day week, will take place.

Scott reported that he has spoken with the General Education committee about changing the advising policy on lowering many credits a student has to have to take UNIV 101 from less than 45 to less than 40.

Adjournment at 4:36 p.m.