EPIC Committee 1.13.11

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Esther Sheppard, Timmy Aziz, Guna Nadarajan, Cindy Barth, Karen Carroll, Jan Stinchcomb, Bob Merrill, David Gracyalny, Tai Smith, Michael Weiss, David East, Whitney Sherman, Ledelle Moe, Denny Farber, Brockett Horne,

Absent Stacey McKenna, Alex Heilner, Timothy App, Nancy Roeder,

Provost Ray Allen (RA) began the meeting at 911am

RA started with a PPT presentation & discussed where we are in our process.

Jan Stinchcomb (JS) next addressed committee to start a discussion regarding the job description of division head vs. dept chair. A handout is passed around.

Bob Merrill (BM) asked who is ultimately the decision maker if a disagreement comes up between a div. head and a chair, what is the chain of command? JS replied that this topic came up yesterday, and we will have to be addressed and stated in the faculty handbook. There is a certain level of accountability of the div. head to JS.

BM stated that his feeling is that the div. head is in an awkward position with an awkward amount of authority.

Whitney Sherman (WS) stated her opinion regarding their capability and her confidence in that, but also the position might be vulnerable to political influences are to be considered if they are not a staff position.

Michael Weiss (MW) also stated his concern that the position would be administrative yet the individual would be faculty rather than staff.

RA gets back to his presentation regarding concept. RA next defined div head position in terms of administrative with faculty status. He next moves to salary and states the figures and then asked the committee stipend or set salary?

BM asked in this salary projection does this factor in an administrative assistant salary?

RA discussed projected savings such as discontinuation of stipends and time releases. And at some point the deans advisory committee stipends will not be needed.

RA next moved to timeline/sequence for phase-in and discussed the divisional organization.
Next topic was to review Timothy Apps (TA) proposal, and then Nancy Roeders (NR) proposal.

MW shared his ideas regarding divisional structure in response to seeing TA & NR’s proposals.

RA argued the importance of taking size into account in forming divisions.

BM stated we are not going to get a clean and perfect structure much like WS stated.

Tai pointed out the size of the humanities department and the number classes per semester.

RA moved on with the presentation going back to timeline and selection process.

BM offered his ideas on division structure as well.

Karen Carroll (KC) asked about the 10 month designation. She stated we are short on time to be visionary. She feels that div. heads should be year round.

Denny Farber (DF) agreed with Karen stating that its not really possible to only be here for 10 months.

Committee discussed offering the div head position as 10 month or full year. Pros/cons , and realistic elements of both.

Further discussion ensues regarding the timeline and just hiring one person (assoc dean) at a time in the build towards 2014, faculty status vs. staff status , teaching while being div head, and sabbatical.

After break group is back to discussion regarding salary.

RA asked group to weigh in to the four divisions mid range goal. Foundation, humanities, fine arts and design & media.

RA confirmed that the searches will be in house initially.

Ray confirmed also that we are in consensus with the proposal and everyone agreed on our progress thus far. RA asked MW when and how is best to and if we should present this to faculty.

Group now discusses title of first position for ex. asst dean or assoc dean.

Lunch break 1210.

Reconvene 110 pm.

RA began with some long range planning goals and stated that change in curriculum will take time, modeling and testing.
Next area of focus in discussions turns to changing curriculum. Variables such as time and resources. Major questions are how can students learn better and how can I teach better?

Productivity-number of students served, steps for moving forward, Assessment, dept pilots, modeling with epic, student assessment.

Who needs to be consulted-registrar, tech, housing, food, facilities, library, chairs, AACB.

First steps. Modular blocks for course offerings, look at length of semester, look at alternative models, fac dev opportunities

Group discussed a variety of issues in changing curriculum, such as class hours, classroom time, studio time, weekly blocks of time, electives and student learning full immersion vs longer process. How do we want to measure the structure of credit hours.

Meeting adjourned 240pm