RFOEC Meeting

Date: 3/8/2021
Time: 1 pm

Participants: RFOEC, ASWSUTC

Location: Zoom


Agenda Items:

I. Student perspectives on Spring 2021
   a. What worked
      i. Professors have been more understanding of challenges.
      ii. Recordings available
      iii. Important to have all materials/slides available going forward.
      iv. Lower barrier to communication that chat allowed is a nice feature.
      v. Much more consistent use of LMS
   b. What didn’t?
      i. Rigorous STEM courses present challenge.
      ii. Spring 2021 has been more difficult than Summer/Fall
      iii. Reluctance for grad students to participate in extra-curricular seminars.
      iv. Lack of spring break leads to a monotony.

II. Student perspectives on fall instruction
   b. Hybrid vs Full in Person Discussion
      i. Any amount of return is better than nothing.
      ii. Lack of social interaction is highly detrimental.
         1. Hybrid/Distanced interaction is still better than nothing
   c. Important to pick a single delivery strategy for a semester.
   d. Vaccine Distribution offers promise of a return to some normalization.
      i. Politically difficult to get Higher Ed faculty priorities for vaccines.
         1. No current plan to do so.
      ii. What level of vaccination required for return to normalcy?
      iii. Unclear if University can require student/employee vaccinations.
   e. Continue concerns about equitable treatment of disabilities + remote instruction.
   f. What does Hybrid actually even mean?
i. Smaller classes might switch days
ii. Large classes are fully online.
   1. The benefit of introducing in person learning severely reduced by excluding such larger classes.
g. In-person/hybrid memo
h. Gaps between classes issue is always a problem, but even worse in light of pandemic.
i. Does a professor teaching at home require students to attend on campus?
   i. It depends: no final decision yet.
   ii. No end date on policy to allow professors to stay at home.
      1. Not likely to be a substantial issue.

III. OneWSU
   a. Will this change the structures/interactions with faculty senate?
      i. Possible, but no current changes planned.
      ii. Creating Pullman version of RFO and moving faculty senate systemwide.
b. Chancellor for Pullman an important change.
c. Faculty very unsatisfied with communication around OneWSU
d. Faculty would like to see cross campus course offerings.
   i. Students agree.

IV. Joint budget requests?
   a. Students are not part of campus budget request process
   b. Funded Exclusively by S&A Fees.
c. Course Reserve Textbooks for Library
   i. Especially STEM courses.
d. Modernization to classroom furniture.
e. Lab Modernization
   i. Especially Engineering/Nursing
f. Increased funding for research opportunities.
g. Whiteboards need improvement.
   i. May have already been fixed.
h. Request Types
   i. One-time
   ii. Ongoing

V. Importance of course evaluations to faculty -> not discussed due to time constraints