Faculty Representative Report
December 7, 2012

Update on curricular change in response to state compliance issues.

Recently completed curricular audits found Fort Lewis out of statutory compliance in three key areas. Curricular revision to meet statutory regulations had to occur by December 1st of this year. By academic year 2013-14 these changes will be codified and published in the school catalog.

Issue 1: General education core course requirements exceeded the state limit of 40 credits.

Background: Fort Lewis is the only college in Colorado with a mix of 3 and 4 credit classes. All other Colorado colleges follow a 3-credit standard. Because our state-mandated liberal arts classes are 4 credits, the general education core totals 38 credits. Fort Lewis also requires students to complete one credit of PE and two upper-division Education for Global Citizenship (EGC) courses, creating a general education core 7 credits over the limit of 40.

Resolution: Faculty Senate presented a ballot with two choices to bring credits in line with statute. Faculty could choose to eliminate EGC classes, or adopt a campus-wide protocol of 3-credit classes. A majority voted to remove the EGC requirement. The Fort Lewis general education core is now in compliance at 39 credits.

Issue 2: Several GT Pathways courses were not in compliance with state content and competency requirements.

Resolution: The General Education Council was tasked with auditing all GT Pathways courses. The GEC worked with department chairs and individual instructors to make sure syllabi for approved classes were adjusted to meet competency and content goals. All Winter 2013 GT Pathway course syllabi are in compliance with state regulations.

Issue 3: In some major options, it is impossible for students to complete graduation requirements in four years and within 120 credits.

Background: Teacher Education and Physics/Engineering are the only departments that are exempt from the 120-credit rule. Other majors seem to be in compliance, but reliance on low-credit elective choices, hidden prerequisites, and double dipping with GT Pathways courses hide a true credit count.

Resolution: Every major option (with exceptions noted above) must map an honest degree count that fits within the 120-credit four-year rule. This is a tremendous amount of work that necessitates curricular reconfiguration, particularly within multidisciplinary degree options that require classes from several departments. By the time this report is in your booklet, honest degree count maps (and the requisite curricular changes to make them honest) will be in effect.

The Senate Executive Council, members of the Faculty Senate, General Education Council, QI Taskforce and others are working diligently in conjunction with administration to resolve any issues that arise as we move to meet state requirements. Everyone in the Registrar’s Office will deserve a fruit basket and thank you card when this is over.
Response to hateful act on campus.

Hateful graffiti directed at the LGTB community was found in a campus restroom in early November. A faculty member expressed concern that the administration did not react promptly to what he felt was a personal threat. Within a day President Thomas sent out a campus-wide email denouncing the graffiti and asking for assistance solving the crime. New protocols have been adopted so administration will be informed more quickly should future incidents occur.

Respectfully,
Amy K. Wendland, Professor of Art
Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees