

2014 Western Region Deans and Directors Joint Summer Meeting, South Lake Tahoe, NV

WAPD meeting minutes

Thursday July 10, 2014

Attendance: Nora Smith, Chair (Montana State University)
Charles Boyer (Fresno State University)
Donna Brown, Secretary/Chair-Elect (University of Wyoming)
Penelope Diebel (Oregon State University)
Nancy Irlbeck (Colorado State University)
Charles Kinoshita (University of Hawaii)
Larry Makus (University of Idaho)
David Shintani (University of Nevada-Reno)

Some preliminary discussions of the planned Western Academic Programs teaching award began at 2:46 pm while waiting for the official meeting to begin (Smith was not yet present). It was decided that the award should be recognize Innovation in Academic Programs, which could include such things as innovations in teaching, advising, recruitment, assessment of student learning, time to graduation, K-12 outreach programs, and experiential learning programs. The award should be to recognize a program, rather than an individual faculty member and/or course. Diebel read the RFP for the Western Region Extension Award as an example of criteria, and it was determined that similar language should be used for the Academic Programs award. The following language was developed:

An Innovative Academic Program is a group or series of activities or events that form a comprehensive project that facilitates or enhances academic excellence or enhances the academic mission of the land-grant and non-land grant university, and supports the western Academic Agenda. Eligible applications are those from any academic program or institution that are members of the Western Region.

Diebel indicated she has a statement that could be used, and Smith also has an eligibility statement that could be used.

The meeting was officially called to order by Smith at 2:58 pm. At that time the group was joined by Michael Harrington (Executive Director, WAAESD). Harrington distributed a copy of the results of the survey completed by WAPD members, which he then discussed. The idea of the survey was to get an idea of what the WAPD priorities are and what actions should be taken as a result.

Irlbeck asked Harrington about the writing committee for the Western Agenda and Water, and how could the Academic Programs group get engaged on some of the writing committees? Harrington talked about the committees, their formation, schedules, etc. Shintani asked if members of the Academic Programs group should be a part of all the writing committee meetings going forward, now that they

had been included in the process? Harrington explained that everything from the writing groups need to be in by September 1 for completion of the white paper by mid-October. Harrington explained that the Academic Programs group may wish to assign members to the different writing groups.

Discussion returned to the results of the survey, with an indication by Harrington that only six WAPD members responded. The survey revealed six top issues (see attached). One of the additional issues is advising, and models for professional advising that several member institutions are already using or are planning were discussed. Most models are for 300 students per each professional adviser.

Priority issues revealed by the survey were obstacles to distance education, and especially using distance education to have shared course offerings across the region. Harrington indicated that the group has been working on these issues for 13 years, and still do not have them figured out. He indicated that the Western Region Extension Directors group had been trying to work with the Western Governor's University, but that it had not been working out well so far. The group as a whole discussed some of the obstacles. i.e. Irlbeck indicated that her institution has been approved to participate in course sharing through Agldea, but that the faculty are not really participating at the anticipated levels. The group discussed the availability of courses through Agldea. Harrington indicated that the region needs a model for how to solve the course sharing problem and that this should be the group's #1 issue. Harrington asked about working on sharing courses through the Western Governor's University? Irlbeck indicated she would look into the possibility. Smith asked about looking at the WUE model for a fee structure for sharing courses, but Irlbeck indicated that what came out of the WUE fee structure is WICHE Ice, which is cost prohibitive for some institutions. Harrington discussed the innovative grants program for instruction related to Food Systems – perhaps that could be a means to work on this issue, but the proposal would need to be very innovative. Harrington suggested reading the white paper written for ACOP for ideas.

The question was asked of Harrington if the Tribal Colleges were members of the Western Academic Programs group, or if not already, could they be? Harrington indicated yes, and that current members of the group could reach out to these institutions. However, he indicated that they tended to have limited funds to support travel to meetings, which may be prohibitive, though the group could look into the possibility of grants or sponsoring programs that could perhaps assist with their travel to attend. Smith indicated that Montana has 7 tribal colleges. Diebel looked up the information for 1994 tribal schools in the Western Region – there are 15 listed.

The discussion returned to using distance education for joint course offerings. The group agreed based on discussions at previous WAPD meetings that the area of Range Management should be the first discipline area to be investigated for a western region program. Obstacles mentioned were differential tuition rates and administrative roadblocks. Which administrators would need to be involved at each institution varied. The possibility of using Mooks was discussed, as well as the consideration of a Higher Education Challenge grant to develop a new course exchange for range courses. Irlbeck agreed to send out the PCAST report and the ACOP white paper via email to all. She also offered to send the latest version of the proposed WY/CO course exchange memorandum of agreement. The discussion returned to the opportunity to submit a Higher Education Challenge grant, with the goal of using the funds as

support for faculty to flip their classes to an online format. It was agreed that each institution should inventory ALL their current range courses, online and traditional format, graduate and undergraduate, with an indication of which academic college range management programs are housed within at each institution. The discussion indicated that the goal is not to create a new online degree program, but rather the goal of the course sharing is to augment/supplement and support existing programs by sharing expertise across the region. Discussion progressed to the different tuition, fees and regulations governing online/distance offerings at member institutions.

It was decided that to proceed tasks should be assigned to participants. Makus offered to provide a written description of how the agreement between the university of Idaho and Washington State University works. Shintani indicated he would investigate further the multi-state project regarding range course sharing. Diebel offered to create a Doodle Poll to schedule a time for the group to meet and discuss findings via a phone conference call. Makus, Brown and Irlbeck indicated they would create a first draft of the RFP for the Innovations in Academic Programs award.

Irlbeck provided an explanation of COPs, Joint COPs, ACOP etc. for all. She also discussed the national Academic Programs group vision statement plans.

The group was reminded that Shintani now takes over the role of Secretary/Chair-Elect from Brown. Brown now begins in the role as Chair of WAPD.

Diebel moved to adjourn at 4:36 pm. Irlbeck seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously and the Smith announced the meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brown, Secretary