

Community College *of* Philadelphia

STUDENT OUTCOMES COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thursday, January 23, 2020
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room M2-34

AGENDA

- (1) 1:30 p.m. Executive Session
- (2) Public Session
 - (a) Approval of the Minutes of November 7, 2019
 - (b) Workforce Development Presentation – Carol de Fries (D)
 - (c) Improving Committee Efficiency (D)
 - Affirm the Committee’s role and the use of the meeting time.
 - Review and approve Academic Program Reviews.
 - Understand and support strategies that promote student success.
 - Support investment strategies that create conditions for student success.
 - (d) New Business

Attachments:

Minutes of November 7, 2019

**STUDENT OUTCOMES COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MINUTES

Thursday, November 7, 2019

1:30 p.m.

Conference Room M2-34

Presiding: Ms. Fulmore-Townsend

Committee

Members: Ms. Hernández Vélez, Ms. McPherson, Ms. Posoff, Rep. Roebuck

College

Members: Ms. de Fries, Dr. Gay, Dr. Generals, Dr. Hirsch, Dr. Roberts

Guests: Ms. Frizell, Ms. Gordon, Dr. Khan, Mr. Musumeci, Dr. Sweet

(1) Executive Session

There were no agenda items for the Executive Session.

(2) Public Session

(a) Approval of the Minutes of October 3, 2019

The minutes were approved unanimously.

(b) Academic Program Review: International Studies, A.A. Degree

Ms. Frizell, from the Office of Academic Assessment, described the International Studies program as relatively small and closely related to the Liberal Arts degree. Until recently, the curriculum was part of the Liberal Arts degree and as a result, International Studies needs its own identity separate from Liberal Arts. The program also needs to make changes to its program learning outcomes so that they differ from the College's general education goals. The program has retention and graduation rates higher than the College average. Dr. Khan, the program curriculum coordinator, explained that people come to the program from different interdisciplinary experiences. The program is inter-cultural (with several foreign languages) and differs from Liberal Arts in that it gives students a firm foundation in global/international studies. The program includes special features such as study abroad and the recently-added "distinction" which notes specialization in Latin America, Africa, Middle East, or Asian studies. The program prepares students to transfer to a baccalaureate program, in addition to preparing students for the labor market. Enrollment has grown from 46 to 66 students; 47% are full-time (compared to 27% college-wide). The program has a 17% success rate, and 61 students have graduated with an AA degree since the program's inception.

A challenge is that retention rates are lower than the College average. Dr. Khan will be working more closely with four-year institutions, including Drexel, University of Pennsylvania, and Temple. He requested input from Drexel on how to stay in touch with alumni; suggestions included alumni happy hours, alumni newsletters, and talks on contemporary topics. Dr. Khan will track graduates and see how they progress in their studies.

To help establish its own identity, Dr. Khan suggested the program could create at least one course on International Studies. Ms. McPherson asked about the vision and mission for the program. Dr. Khan replied that the program wants to produce students who are accepted into baccalaureate programs and well-prepared for rigorous studies. Ms. McPherson noted that while the program has languages, it should also address cultural knowledge. Mr. Musumeci, the department head, explained that culture is incorporated into every language course and is one of the areas regularly assessed. Dr. Khan added that the program started with a strong focus on languages but the program has gone far beyond that, including the specializations that will give students an advantage.

In response to Ms. McPherson's question about providing students with specific niches within the program of study, Dr. Sweet explained there is a new effort to be more deliberate with the specializations for students who will transfer and those who will work. To Rep. Roebuck's query about contacts with the federal government, Dr. Khan said that he has been working on cultivating such connections. While the program is a transfer program, there is an awareness of workforce needs. Dr. Khan noted a decline in the federal government workforce has been countered by expansion in the private sector and that people fluent in more than one language have an advantage in the job market.

Action: The Student Outcomes Committee unanimously recommended the International Studies program should submit a follow-up report in one year providing an update on its progress. The follow-up report should address outreach to four-year institutions and the private sector; learning outcomes; relationships with businesses; labor market trends; tracking graduates; mapping the vision and mission to the curriculum and separating its curriculum from Liberal Arts; and progress on the program review's action items.

(c) Student Success Data

Dr. General explained that the strategic plan has three goals, one of which is to increase the graduation rate. This is important because by 2022, 68% of jobs will require a college degree. Dr. General also emphasized a continued commitment to access. This includes moving more students into college-level courses. Students need to progress through developmental education, and the College is providing the means for students to succeed beyond pre-college/remedial classes. Strategic directions

include fully implementing Guided Pathways, being intellectually rigorous, and increasing workforce development opportunities.

Dr. Hirsch provided the committee with an overview of the College's Guided Pathways website which contains updates on the student experience. Guided Pathways is focused on the student experience and student success. Highlights for how the College has transformed what it does include developing more prescriptive curricula and creating seven academic pathways around thematic groupings of programs. The College has also reviewed access points that may stop students, including placement into development courses. This area has seen dramatic changes, including realignment of measures (i.e., how students are placed), incorporating additional measures, and curricular alignment. By realigning the curriculum to allow for concurrent enrollment via the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) for English, several hundred students per semester are able to begin taking college-level content courses sooner. There has also been a decrease in the percentage of students who place into developmental education and an increase in credit momentum.

Dr. Hirsch described other changes the College has made under Guided Pathways including creation of a department of full-time faculty advisors. There are currently 11 full-time advisors with two more positions to be filled and plans for additional positions each year. Advisors monitor students via an early alert system and work with students to develop academic plans. The College instituted first-year experience courses for several programs, which students are to take within their first 12 credits. In these courses (AH 101 for Allied Health; FYE 101 for Liberal Arts; BUSL 101 for Business programs), students develop educational, career, and financial plans. The Dashboard provides data on student success with 2018-19 the most current data available. Trends have included increased persistence rates, increased 3-year completion rates, decreases in the percent of students placed into developmental English, and some improvements in achievement gaps. Ms. Fulmore-Townsend noted that the committee can make changes to the Dashboard and should do so to make it as useful as possible.

(d) Workforce and Economic Innovation - Update

Ms. de Fries showed a new video from the Division highlighting welding students. One of the strategies with the program offering catalog is to incorporate more students' stories. It is anticipated the Division moving forward is to have a more robust marketing plan. Due to the meeting time constraint, the Division updates will continue at the next Committee meeting.

(e) New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Student Outcomes Committee of the Board is scheduled for February 6, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room M2-34.

Attachments:

Minutes of October 3, 2019

Academic Program Review: International Studies