

Academic Quality Committee Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting of the Academic Quality Committee (AQC) was called to order at 3:45 p.m., by Chairman: Patricia Todd

Members Present: Tracy Jenkins, Dan Strunk, Sara McCaslin, Ron Rhoades, Andrea Jenkins, Ngoc Nguyen, Sarah Herbert, Patricia Todd

Guest: Ruomeng Wu

Minutes Approval: The minutes from the previous meeting (9/13/2023) were approved with the correction of a misspelled name.

Presentation: Dr. Ron Rhoades presented his proposal to the AQC (refer to attached document).

Discussion:

1. The committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding various points of Dr. Rhoades' proposal, particularly focusing on members' experiences with larger classroom sizes.
2. Tracy Jenkins shared insights from the BSN Nursing Program's recent transition from larger to smaller classroom sizes due to faculty shortages, retention concerns, and graduation rates.
3. Dan Strunk raised pertinent questions regarding faculty layoffs, determination of faculty allocation for large class sizes, and the adequacy of WKU's auditorium space.
4. Sara McCaslin commended the efforts of CITL in promoting active learning and engagement among faculty. Sara also noted, University Experience/University Learning (IDST 199) also addresses "learning to learn" content within the curriculum of that course relating to positive student behaviors and student success.
5. Committee members highlighted the effectiveness of Living Learning Communities (LLCs) in freshman retention at WKU.
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Proposed Next Steps by Patricia Todd:

1. Investigate existing research on larger university classroom sizes.
2. Determine oversight responsibilities for Living Learning Communities and ascertain the number of LLCs at WKU.
3. Assess the composition and efficacy of part-time faculty compared to full-time faculty at WKU.

Motion to Adjourn: Dan Strunk motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tracy Jenkins. All members present were in favor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the AQC is scheduled for March 12, 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.