

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM: 6.L**

**DATE: July 26, 2010**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT: 2010-2011 Discipline Council Membership, Leadership and Direction**

During the past few years, AAC has had a number of discussions about the Discipline Councils, working to ensure these provide opportunities for groups of faculty and administrators to work effectively within the system. As we approach the new academic year, the Councils will once again be constituted and their charge for the year will be delivered.

A matrix showing the current members and designated chair of each Council is attached. Campuses should review this and recommend members in cases where vacancies exist.

Each year a letter is sent to the councils outlining topics for consideration. We will discuss these briefly and members of AAC are encouraged to suggest topics that could be incorporated.

Once again, each campus is asked to schedule a meeting of all Discipline Council members early in the fall to discuss the Councils and their operations. Members of AAC should consider other steps that could be taken to more clearly establish the roles and responsibilities of the Discipline Councils which should ensure that faculty members assigned can best meet expectations.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

**Discussion.**

## **Discipline Councils**

This document provides members of the Discipline Councils an understanding of the history and purposes of these groups. These Councils are envisioned as defined fora that permit faculty members to address specific academic issues facing the system. However, experience has shown that these groups are effective if the members clearly understand how the Councils function and how their work guides and shapes system initiatives. Members of the Councils should review this document and during the first meeting of the year each Council is asked to discuss this. If the Council is unclear about any aspect of their operations, the chair should direct questions to the Board liaison, the campus Provost/VPAA, or the system's Chief Academic Officer.

A decade ago, the Board authorized the establishment of Discipline Councils as a vehicle to enhance opportunities for collaboration among the faculty and staff of the separate institutions. The underlying concept for these Councils arose from the initial set of state-wide roundtables which were held in the mid-1990's. A system-wide leadership team used the PEW Beta Project on Executive Education with the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania to develop a draft policy statement that fleshed out this concept. This policy, approved by the Board in 1997, sets out in policy the assumptions behind, mission and responsibilities of the Councils (see BOR Policy 1:7:8 – Discipline Councils - <http://www.sdbor.edu/policy/1-Governance/1-7-8.pdf> ).

The Board item that proposed this policy included the following statement which outlines the benefits these Councils are expected to provide (Agenda Item K, BOR Meeting March 26-27, 1997).

“Linking discipline delivery across institutions is essential in serving statewide needs. To insure an integration of curriculum service to students and graduates who may be highly mobile, and to ensure that system resources are effectively used at multiple instructional sites and through the use of technology, a relationship within academic disciplines should be structured through system-wide Discipline Councils. Approaching academic program curriculum and resource utilization, particularly faculty, through an alliance, each institution's program will be strengthened. This alliance could produce a fuller curricular offering at each instructional site, a curriculum that facilitates student mobility, a better use of faculty expertise and specialization, and the ability to bring more depth to academic programs by building discipline expertise across institutions. It also permits institutions to focus on recruiting faculty with stronger specialty areas, rather than using limited faculty positions to seek generalists who are required to handle a wide range of academic material. One of the major benefits derived from Discipline Councils is the systemic, statewide perspective on needs to be addressed by a specific discipline. The Discipline Council approach also shifts the primary orientation of the inter-institutional discipline activities from a competitive to a collaborative model.”

This statement clearly establishes the system-wide, discipline based perspective that the Councils are expected to bring to their deliberations. It is expected that members function as representatives of their disciplines. While faculty members do have opportunity to shape the system's agenda as part of their campus's administrative activities, these Councils ask members to share their expertise in a different light. The following broad responsibilities were assigned to the Councils:

**Descriptive activities:** The Discipline Councils shall develop and maintain system inventories for curriculum and courses, faculty expertise, faculty scholarship, and efforts to acquire external resources and awards. The Council shall develop recommendations for approaches for common course numbering, common course descriptions, and articulation within the system.

**Collaborative activities:** The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations concerning the means for assessing and coordinating the available expertise within the system to meet individual institutions' needs in a discipline; develop collaborative approaches, where feasible, to meet institutional and system needs within the discipline; and provide a recommendation for reviewing system resources for a discipline. The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations for meeting the state needs for the discipline.

**Reportage activities:** The Discipline Councils shall make recommendations and reports as appropriate, but, at a minimum, annually. Each Discipline Council shall report to the Board of Regents through the Academic Affairs Council and the Council of Presidents and Superintendents and shall insure community participation at the institutional level.

Each Council is assigned a Board staff member who will serve as a liaison while also serving as an active member of the Council. It is expected that the Council Chair will work with this person to discuss the schedule and agendas for meetings. In addition, the Chair and the Liaison should work together to coordinate the work of the Council within the broader context of the system. Throughout the year, if the members of the Council have questions or have suggested agenda items, they should work with the Council Chair.

A table is included which provides a list of the members of all of the Discipline Councils. Those of you new to this process are encouraged to visit with members of other Councils. While each Council has evolved some unique practices, the effective ones have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the groups and function within these frameworks. Discussions with members of other groups can be helpful.

One final note. Each year, one or two of the Councils ask questions about support. Historically, each campus has supported the travel of faculty to participate in meetings and in most disciplines this is understood and the schedule of meetings is set accordingly. In most cases, Councils will have two meetings per year with one being in person and the second a conference call or DDN session. Board staff will assist with these.

If you have questions, please contact your Board staff liaison, your campus Provost/VPAA, or the system Chief Academic officer.

## Discipline Council Rosters 2009 - 2010

University	Arts & Science	Social Science	English	Math	Information Technology	Business	Humanities	Education	Fine Arts	HPER
<b>BHSU</b>	Holly Downing	Laura Colmenero-Chilberg Sandra Marker	Gary Groce Christine Shearer-Creman	Curtis Card Daluss Siewert	Jean Johnson Mike Turner	Priscilla Romkema Sheila Aaker	Kathleen Parrow. Vice Chair Mary Husemann	Nancy Hall David Calhoon	Jim Knutson Janeen Larsen	Betsy Silva Sandy Klarenbeek
<b>DSU</b>	Kari Forbes-Boyte	Kurt Kemper Viki Johnson	John Laffin Nancy Moose	Jeffrey Palmer Richard Avery	Wayne Pauli Steve Krebsbach	Jack Walters Rick Puetz	Mary Lynn Ryan Sue Conover	<b>Judy Dittman, CHAIR</b> Crystal Pauli	Dan Mortenson Tom Jones	<b>Gale Wiedow, CHAIR</b> Andrew Shim
<b>NSU</b>	Celestino Mendez	John Schaff Ken Blanchard	Patrick Whiteley Lysbeth Benkert-Rasmussen	Abid Elkhader Ricardo Rojas	Tobin Lindblom Lu Zhang	Hillar Neumann	<b>Virginia Lewis, CHAIR</b> Art Marmorstein	Connie Geier Nancy Barondeau	Alan LaFave, Vice Chair Peter Kilian	Camille Thomas, Vice Chair Kathie Courtney
<b>SDSMT</b>	Sue Shirley	Roger Dendinger	Kathy Antonen Sally Palmer, Co-Vice Chairs	<b>Kyle Riley, CHAIR</b> Don Teets	John Weiss Jeff McGough	Sue Shirley (liaison)	Rod Rice	Josephine (Jo) Lee (liaison)	Deborah Mitchell Jim Feiszli	Barbara Felderman
<b>SDSU</b>	<b>Jerry Jorgensen, CHAIR</b>	Pat Joffer <b>April Brooks, CHAIR</b>	Mike Keller Kathleen Donovan	Kurt Cogswell Dan Kemp	George Hamer Mike Adelaine	<b>John Sondey, CHAIR</b> Carol Cumber	Laurie Haleta Maria Ramos	Andrew Stremmel Lon Moeller David Hilderbrand	<b>Don Crowe, CHAIR</b> Michael Steele	Patty Hacker Bernadette Olson
<b>USD</b>	Matthew Moen	Richard Fox Mary Pat Bierle	Kenneth Green <b>Emily Haddad, CHAIR</b>	Jose Flores Dan van Peurse, Vice Chair	Bijay Naik <b>Asai Asaithambi, CHAIR</b>	Mike Keller	Carrie Prentice Susan Wolfe	Linda Reetz Rick Melmer	Ron Moyer Darlene Fett	Tim Mirtz Larry Tentinger
<b>BOR</b>	<b>Sam Gingerich</b>	<b>Sam Gingerich</b>	<b>Janelle Toman</b>	<b>Sam Gingerich</b>	<b>Gary Johnson</b>	<b>Cathy Anderson</b>	<b>Jim Shekleton</b>	<b>Sam Gingerich</b>	<b>Sam Gingerich</b>	<b>Paul Turman</b>