***Plymouth State University***

**FACULTY MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

3:35 PM – Heritage Commons

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 p.m. with approximately 70 faculty in attendance.

**I.** **Acceptance of the minutes** from the April 3rd, 2013 meeting. After a review of the minutes, there were no amendments. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**II. Reports**

A. Sara Jayne Steen, President

B. Julie Bernier, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**III. Old Business**

1. **None**

**IV. New Business**

A. Resolutions of Standing Committees (None)

1. **Motion from the First Year Seminar Council (FYS).** Wendy Palmquist made a motion to amend the Faculty Bylaws to incorporate a change in the title and role of one of the members of the First Year Seminar Council as follows:

**Current:**

**“8. First Year Seminar Coordinating Council** *[created 10-5-05]*

a. Composition:

The First Year Seminar Coordinator, who will chair the Council; the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies ***(or in her/his absence, the Dean of the Academic Experience who may then vote)***; one faculty member from the General Education Committee, to be chosen by that Committee; three faculty who teach the First Year Seminar, to be appointed by the Provost for three-year staggered terms; one Library faculty member to be chosen by the Library faculty.”

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Rationale: There is now no such position as the Dean of the Academic Experience. The Director of University Studies, who heads the department that is the home for Deciding Students, has replaced that. The Council feels that the person in that position should be on the Council, and would like to rewrite the composition paragraph to read:

**Proposed:**

**“8. First Year Seminar Coordinating Council** *[created 10-5-05]*

a. Composition:

The First Year Seminar Coordinator, who will chair the Council; the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies; ***the Director of University Studies (who may vote in the absence of the AVPUS)***; one faculty member from the General Education Committee, to be chosen by that Committee; three faculty who teach the First Year Seminar, to be appointed by the Provost for three-year staggered terms; one Library faculty member to be chosen by the Library faculty.”

The motion was seconded. Wendy spoke to the motion. A vote was taken. **The motion was approved.**

C**. INFORMATION/REPORT –** The Academic Affairs Committee’s input on the Gen Ed Directions proposal. Elliott Gruner, Chair of the General Education Committee, spoke briefly on the General Education Committee’s proposal and ongoing work to reform the General Education Program. Gruner reported that the Committee had gathered information from a variety of assessments, such as years of sunset course renewal discussions, the full faculty survey, academic department focus groups, other faculty focus groups, student focus groups, student surveys, student end-of-course evaluations, past Gen Ed revision proposals and other pertinent information in order to craft the current proposal to change the framework for Gen Ed Directions courses. The Committee brought this proposal to the full faculty for discussion during the past two meetings and continue their work with other faculty committees (as indicated by the report from Academic Affairs). Elliott expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Gen Ed Committee, for the work Academic Affairs has done considering the change. Unfortunately, there wasn’t time on today’s agenda to have the discussion needed to address all of the concerns from members of Academic Affairs. He did note that full-time faculty participation in the Gen Ed program has been falling for several years. Some faculty indicated a desire to participate more fully if the conflicts between majors and Directions were resolved. Would it be better to explore a new plan for Gen Ed? The Committee will consider bringing this particular change proposal back to the faculty for a vote in the fall.

**V. Announcements**

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m., and was followed by the presentation of the Distinguished Teaching Awards.

The Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award was presented to Esther Kennedy, MEd Program.

The Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award was presented to William Hett, Mathematics

 Department.

The Distinguished Teaching Award was presented to Christian Bisson, Health and Human

 Performance Department.