

North Central Academic Programs Meeting

July 9, 2002

Cloquet, Minnesota

Academic Deans present included: Richard Barrows, Wisconsin; Eric Hoiberg, Iowa State; L. H. Newcomb, Ohio State; Don Marshall, South Dakota State; Dale Whittaker, Purdue; and Kirby Barrick, Illinois. Kirby Barrick coordinated the meeting in the absence of Chairman Paul Vaughn. Welcome to Don and Dale as they join the group.

Participants shared ideas concerning faculty development. Newcomb distributed a summary of the survey he conducted regarding teaching and advising development programs. Miami University (Ohio) conducts programs on faculty learning communities. Should faculty development be done on a department level in addition to by the college? Barrows shared that Wisconsin is interested in creating a climate of scholarship around teaching and learning within departments. Barrick distributed a summary of activities sponsored by the ACES Academy of Teaching Excellence. The teaching academy at Ohio State proposed a policy that was adopted by the college that all faculty candidates must present a teaching demonstration as a part of the interview process.

Newcomb asked, what is the role of faculty advisers in this era of electronic scheduling? Adequately meeting the needs of minority students is a part of the issue. Should this be a collaborative effort within the region? Developing modules for infusing multiculturalism into the curriculum is another idea, partnering with knowledgeable faculty at historically Black institutions.

Minnesota is scheduled to chair the North Central Teaching Symposium in 2003, and Missouri in 2004. The group agreed that the region should consider transforming the symposium into a workshop, where academic deans and selected faculty and others would gather to work on a specific project. The academic deans meeting could be held then rather than during the mini-land grant summer meeting. An idea in addition to multiculturalism could be matching faculty interests with student interests and with employer interests (animal production vs. companion animals vs. skills employers desire, as an example).

What is happening at the undergraduate level in distance delivery of instruction? Generally, not much. The need is not evident, and there is not much demand for traditional distance-delivery modes for credit courses. A notable exception is the poultry consortium coordinated by Wisconsin where poultry courses are offered in summer. The cost of distance-delivered courses is probably prohibitive. Barrick will check with ADEC regarding the inventory of distance-delivered courses. A greater need than college-sponsored courses is facilitating individual faculty collaboration across universities. (Note: Courses listing in a searchable file can be found at <http://deal.unl.edu/adece/> The site appears to be out-of-date.)

New programs, minors, and courses that are attracting large enrollments were discussed. A new biology major at Wisconsin draws large numbers, but the results of having many general biology majors are questioned. South Dakota and Texas A&M have seen strong growth in fisheries and wildlife courses and programs.

Barrick asked about joint bachelor's and master's programs to help recruit high ability applicants. Iowa State and Purdue have such programs. Hoiberg distributed a new recruitment brochure that emphasizes the broad curriculum of the college. Those who have summaries of who and what influences students to decide on a major volunteered to share that information across the region. Barrick will send out subscription information on *Change* magazine to the group. (Call 1-800-365-9753 for subscription information.)

Institutional reports from Iowa State, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois were distributed. Due to a lack of time, little follow-up discussion was held. The group expressed sincere concern regarding Vaughn's recovery from knee surgery. Barrick volunteered to give Vaughn a list of golf courses in east central Illinois which do not have steep slopes.

Newcomb asked, will we be thriving in 20 years if we continue on the present course of action as agriculture colleges? That appears to be a question well worth pondering in the future.

Paper copies of available handouts will be sent to absent members.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirby Barrick
Secretary and Chair pro tem