TO: PCPS Dean’s Conference
FROM: Diane S. Muniz
DATE: May 4, 2009
SUBJECT: Summary of the April 30, 2009 Meeting

Members attending: D. Hair, P. Harrington, A. Mantione, O. Morgan, M. Olivette, D. Posegate, C. Radle, J. Sanko, D. West
Guests: G. Borowski, M. Sharkey, V. Corcoran, K. Wasserman, K. Samuel, K. Plotka, M. Moylan

The summary of the February 26, 2009 meeting was approved.

Awards
The PCPS Service Learning award was presented to Melissa Sharkey.
The Ignatian Book Award for service learning was presented to Katherine Samuel.
The Outstanding Community Member award was presented to Dr. Gregory Borowski for his work in the Leahy Clinic.

Weinberg Memorial Library
Betsey Moylan, Associate Professor and Librarian, gave an update of new services and search engines available at the Weinberg Memorial Library. If any department is interested in a more detailed demonstration of a specific search engine, a librarian would be happy to attend a departmental meeting.

Curriculum Update
Michael Olivette gave an update on curriculum approvals. The CHED program, Education’s PreK-4 program, HR on-line program and the Rehab Counseling Criminal Justice concentration have all been approved, along with approvals of new courses, curriculum changes and course deletions submitted by PCPS departments.

Math 204 and PCPS majors
Dave Hair gave background information about the department’s (Exercise Science & Sport) recommendation that Math 204, Special Topics of Statistics, be offered as an option for Exercise Science majors along with EDUC 120 and PSYC 210. Dr. K. Plotka explained that MATH 204 is an introductory level statistics course that is algebra based. Dr. Plotka felt that the three course descriptions are very similar. Other PCPS majors will consider this course as an option for their students. There was some discussion about the statistical software (MiniTab) package that is used in Math 204. Department chairs stated that their preference would be SPSS, a software package currently used by faculty in PCPS. A suggestion was made that if the class consists of PCPS majors, perhaps the course could be taught using SPSS. Dr. Plotka will pass along this information to his department. If anyone has further questions about this course, Dr. Plotka is available by phone or e-mail.
Courses Taken at Other Institutions
On April 24th, a meeting was held with Drs. Conover, Fahey, Harris and Voltzow from CAS and Prof. Hair, Ms. Posegate, Drs. Bruch, Harrington, Olivette and Pellegrino from PCPS to discuss courses taken by students at other institutions. Some CAS faculty felt that PCPS students are often advised to take courses at other institutions during the summer. Dr. Pellegrino explained that the PCPS advising center does not advise students to take courses elsewhere, and they do not advise students on which University instructors to take and which to avoid. It was noted that correspondence was sent to all students by the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs reminding them that if they want to take courses in the summer at/near their hometown, they need to get approval from their College’s advising center, and the University catalog makes it clear that students can take classes at other institutions.

Dr. Olivette ran some statistics using student SAT scores to determine if students’ overall GPA is affected by their taking courses at other institutions. In every case, both overall GPA and program GPA remained the same regardless of where classes were taken. During academic year 2008-2009, 21% of students took one science course at other institutions; 8% took two science courses off campus; and 71% took science courses at the University. The study shows that there is no impact at all as to where the student takes classes.

Advising Center
A recent discussion at the APC meeting dealt with advising centers on campus. Dr. Pellegrino noted that PCPS will be looking at its advising center and gathering both hard and qualitative data. Dr. Olivette will form a focus group for this purpose.

Junior Faculty Development Plans
The Junior Faculty Development Plans are completed. Letters will be sent to the PCPS tenure-track faculty with copies to the Chairs. Two junior faculty members did not want release time; 49 of the 57 junior faculty members will receive release time during the fall or spring semester. If the Chairs see any conflict with the suggested semester of release time, please contact the Dean.

Leahy Faculty Research
There were no grants awarded through the Leahy Faculty Research program. The committee is revising the evaluation form and budget requirements for next year’s program. A question regarding the continuation of the College’s Distinguished Service Award and the Leahy Faculty Fellow was raised. At this time, no decision has been made.

Web Page Project
The new web page project is moving ahead. Exercise Science and PT are on board. Nursing and CHS will be the next departments to proceed. Cheryll Demkosky is available to help PCPS departments with this project.

Assistant Dean for Finance
Dr. Carol Radle reported that 2009-2010 requests for release time are due on May 15th. The requests are for the entire year. Work is being done on a web-based program for use when submitting information for Challenges in Theory & Practice. Entry will be similar to the annual report entry.
Honors Program for PCPS
Ollie Morgan gave a brief update on programs of excellence—Honors, SJLA and KSOM Leadership. Discussions have taken place regarding an Honors program for PCPS. Upon the retirement of Dr. Ellen Casey, Dr. Joe Kraus will take charge of the University's Honors Program. Dr. Kraus met separately with Dr. Morgan and Dr. Pellegrino. Dr. Kraus indicated that the Honors program may be reshaped and would possibly have various Honors tracks within the program.

Congratulations
Congratulations to retiring faculty: Dr. Gary Wodder, Prof. John Hopkins, Prof. J. Michael Strong all of the Exercise Science & Sport department, and Dr. Joseph Fursaro, Education Department.

Congratulations to the PCPS Fulbright finalists: Cynthia David and Amy Lee.

c:
   APC
   Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.