

rescinding the FYS task force vote

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To: FS Executive Council 2020/21 <fsexecutivecouncil202021@moreheadstateedu28844.onmicrosoft.com>

Cc: Doug Chatham <d.chatham@moreheadstate.edu>

Hi all,

I will make some brief remarks tomorrow to recap before moving to rescind the vote for an FYS ad hoc committee. I want to lay out the facts in an unbiased way and then take the comments I sent to you by email on Friday 10/30 and share those with FS.

- On Thursday, October 29, Faculty Senate voted to create an ad hoc task force comprised of faculty and staff to address issues identified in the FYS special called meeting. The vote was an oral vote in an online meeting. The vote passed.
 - Senator Hare's motion (emailed to FS during the meeting prior to the vote):
 - I move that faculty senate create a joint faculty staff task force with the Provost tasked with addressing the key problems identified in this meeting.
 - Staffing FYS (including fractionalization)
 - Oversight of FYS (black box of Undergraduate Education & Student Success)
 - Solving the key problems identified with the current FYS
- On Friday, October 30, Executive Council met with President Morgan and Provost Russell for a scheduled meeting. After that meeting, I sent an email to the members of the Executive Council, FS Communications Officer, and Faculty Regent. In that email, I expressed the following thoughts and asked these questions:
 - Senator Hare is correct that Faculty Senate needs to work to make sure that committees are doing what they are tasked with doing. The task force as described is redundant if we are committed to the March 2020 FYS committee description, which passed in Faculty Senate last spring. This description was rejected by President Morgan prior to the October 29 meeting; however, he expressed to the Executive Council the following day that he was not opposed to a standing committee comprised of faculty and staff to address FYS issues, and he suggested that he would be willing to look at a revised membership list and description if faculty worked together with the Provost to come to a compromise regarding membership and instructor evaluation processes.
 - If we are NOT committed to the March 2020 FYS committee description, and are abandoning it in favor of the joint faculty-staff task force, we are effectively redoing the work the Governance committee completed just last year. The ad hoc task force would be populated, I assume, by members with interest and experience in FYS, and would likely end up with many of the same members that are currently on the FYS subcommittee under GEC. The task force membership would also have to be "negotiated" as we are against the model of hand-picked ad hoc committees (part of the reasoning behind the March 2020 FYS Committee proposal in the first place, as I understand it).
 - In our meeting with the President and Provost, Dr. Morgan said that he is not opposed to a three-year review of data regarding FYS by a joint committee, which could then lead to changes in the program. The work of a task force MAY set us back in this regard because the task force would have to complete its work before a standing FYS committee could be put into place. An FYS standing committee with rotating membership should be

charged with regular review of FYS, whether every three years, every five, etc.; this should not be done by an ad hoc group. Again, this goes back to whether we are abandoning the March 2020 committee description or not.

- In my email to Executive Council on October 30, I also proposed a way forward, which is to continue to work on the March 2020 FYS Committee as a committee that will have greater input in curriculum and the regular review process, while implementing an ad hoc task force to address other issues that are tied to FYS and require joint faculty-staff unity: these include pursuing the issues presented in the hybrid staff report, supporting Staff Congress initiatives to implement supervisor evaluations and climate surveys, and addressing faculty and staff concerns about workers' rights with regard to fractionalization. I believe that making progress in one area (unified front with regard to FYS instruction, compensation, etc.) will lead to progress in another (curriculum changes and the evolution of the program into one that complies with standards for academic credit).
- On November 2, Executive Council met for our regularly scheduled meeting. The Executive Council agreed to support the motion to rescind the FYS task force vote, which would open up the floor for future discussions of how to move forward and perhaps the proposal of an alternative task force with a more focused purpose. I agreed to bring this to the full Senate.

After consulting with our Parliamentarian, Senator Chatham, we realized that the only way to keep the March 2020 FYS Committee description in play (acknowledging the work of last year's Governance committee, honoring the Faculty Senate vote from last spring, and perhaps stopping us from redoing work that has recently been done), is to rescind the vote, and move forward with talks that would include Senator Graves as the previous chair of Governance responsible for writing the committee description, President Grupe, myself as current Governance chair, and Dr. Greg Russell. These talks would not preclude the formation of an ad hoc task force to address other issues outlined above. My goal in meeting with Provost Russell would be to promote faculty authority over the FYS curriculum since it is a course for academic credit hours, bringing us in line with SACSCOC guidelines (this discussion has been outlined previously by Regent Adams, so I won't go over it here).

I move to rescind the October 29 vote for the FYS ad hoc task force.

Does this sound ok to all of you? Have I gotten my facts/process straight?

Thanks,

Julia

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she/her/hers

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