FSEM Committee Meeting Notes

5 February 2019

HCC, Room 211

Voting Members Present: April Wynn (Chair), Robert Rycroft, Patrick Rich and Dan Hubbard (Secretary)

Ex-Officio Member Present: Anand Rao

Chair Wynn called the meeting to order at 8h01.

1. First-Year Experience Director Rao related his experiences in discussing issues with the General Education Committee, notably concerning QEP assessment, burnout and other workload issues. He expressed the opinion that the FSEM offers an “important experience” and recommended that the committee consider a “3+1” model, which would allow “separation” of the “out of class” material, in particular the learning modules into the lone credit, which might also include support visits and other items, such as co-curricular events. He spoke about the evolution of the FSEM, and particularly highlighted the improvement in student evaluation of the advising they were receiving from when it was first measured in 2012 (As a specific example, the “excellent” rating had moved from 37% in 2012 to 53% in 2018.) His major concern is about the “manageability” of the current demands placed on FSEM instructors, which is a major rationale motivating the “3+1” suggestion.

Discussion followed, with the committee’s major concern being about the danger of “decoupling” with the modular material. Particularly in the last few years, the FSEM Committee has made a major effort to integrate this material in all newly approved offerings, and there is a real worry that this might be endangered. The committee agreed unanimously that, should the “3+1” model be adopted, the additional course needed to be “a credit of support” and that the FSEM instructor needed to retain control over managing this work.

The committee also unanimously supported continuing the policy of 1 peer mentor for each separate FSEM section, as this has proved to be efficacious.

Finally, the committee unanimously agreed to the statement crafted by Director Rao supporting the “3+1” model, with the clear understanding of retained management of the extra credit by the FSEM instructor, and the proviso that, should the General Education Committee and Faculty approve the change, that the FSEM Committee would then need to develop the specifics needed to make it operational.

1. Decisions made on existing proposals:
2. Accept with minimal revision: Kim, Coffman, Schleef, Hydorn, Sumner
3. Accept with major revision and review: Humphreys
4. The Committee agreed to review further revisions to two proposals by Monday, 11 February 2019

Following a motion to adjourn by Mr. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Rich, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9h 06.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Hubbard