

**COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT (CAA)**

**MINUTES, MARCH 11, 2009**

UNH 107, 10:00 – 12:00

Members present: Heidi Andrade, Henryk Baran, Kristina Bendikas, Zakhar Berkovich, Irina Birman, Daryl Bullis, Michael Christakis, Sue Faerman, Bill Roberson, Joette Stefl-Mabry, Bruce Szelest, Alex Xue

Members absent: Marjorie Pryse

The minutes of February 25 were reviewed and adopted.

The Chair reported to the Council that the concerns of the Senate Executive Committee regarding the proposed changes to the Charter were still being considered, and that he would continue working with the governance bodies and the Council to find solutions that would be acceptable to all concerned.

The Chair of the Program Review Committee reported that committee's response to the Educational Administration and Policy Studies' self-study, external reviewer report, and departmental response. There were minor points in the report that needed clarification. The report was adopted by the Council with the understanding that the points would be addressed prior to sharing the report with the department Chair and the Dean.

Senate Chair John Delano and Vice Provost Wayne Locust presented a proposal created by the Provost's First Year Experience Task Force. They described three models for a first year experience that involved different levels of financial commitment by the university and different levels of commitment by the faculty. Delano and Locust then asked for feedback from the Council. Members made observations about the learning goals, which would be common to all three models. There were questions asking for clarification about certain aspects of the models, and about how the FYE courses and the General Education program would overlap. Since the proposal is in its early stages, some information was not yet available.

At the invitation of the Council Chair, following the conclusion of the previous presentation, John Delano, in his capacity as the current Chair of the University Senate and of the Senate Executive Committee, remained to address the Council's questions about its charge. Delano acknowledged that there are differing opinions about the interpretation of the charge of the Council, but encouraged the Council to think broadly. He reminded the Council that its role is advisory, and as such it need not feel too constrained in making recommendations to the administration. Delano advocated for cooperation and supported the continuation of deliberations by the Council about its role, since it appeared to be an important and productive discussion. He encouraged the Council to ask itself what is really important and how it can play the most effective role in addressing the concerns such as those that the recent NSSE survey raised.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristina Bendikas