Science and Math Liaisons

Meeting Notes

Feb. 19, 2016

Present: Steven Bogaerts, Dana Dudle, Bridget Gourley, Alex Komives, Pam Propsom, Jackie Roberts, Dan Rusu, Fred Soster, Brian Wright

Jackie shared a Powerpoint slideshow with data regarding “success” (C or better, not withdrawing) in our introductory courses. We had previously presented some data from Bill Tobin regarding Science and Math, but we now have comparison data from the Arts & Humanities and Social Science curricular areas. (First-Year Seminars are excluded from these analyses.)

\*Notes: AH data are going to include English 130, which was required for many years.

How do we share this information with departments? Bill Tobin could tell each liaison which department is theirs and then ask them to discuss this in departments. Anne Harris and Carrie Klaus are coming around to all department to discuss their diversity plans, so this might be valuable information to have in preparation. How might we address the issue of lack of success for some particular student groups (first-gen, DSOC)?

* Less gross comparisons by year to see if change over time, maybe in 5-year chunks?
* Are there some departments that have made significant changes which we could track to see if they’ve produced any differences in student success?
* Are there some departments that have been particularly successful with some student groups that could share their tactics with us?
* Departments could ask for additional analyses (e.g., Physics might have two different types of 100-level courses and might want to look at them differently).
* There are many variables that could contribute to these outcomes; which do we have control over and what can we change?
* Math has “two speeds:” One-semester Calculus or two-semester Calculus with Review. Might more departments consider something like this? Using Winter Term as a “prep” or “recovery course” like Mark Kannowski taught.

At a future liaison meeting, we would like liaisons to report back on departmental discussion and any plans/ideas they have to discuss this.