Continuing Education Faculty Senate Advisory Committee  
October 24, 2006

Present: Gloria Vavricka, Wyatt Hoback, Kathryn Zuckweiler, Scott Fredrickson, Trecia Markes, Steven McGahan

Absent: Carol Lomicky, Patricia Cruzeiro, Sheryl Heidenreich, Lon Pearson, Mary Daake

Guest: Scott Darveau

On behalf of Faculty Senate, Scott Darveau was present for the first meeting of the 2006-07 year and gave the constitutional charge for the Continuing Education Advisory Committee. It states that the committee will review and make recommendations to the office in charge of Continuing Education on policies, programs, and practices to ensure that they are consistent with the educational mission of the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the client groups it serves.

Kathryn Zuckweiler was nominated chair and Julie Saalfeld will serve as secretary.

Before leaving the meeting, Scott Darveau recommended the committee consider the following charge as one of their issues for the year. As a result of the newly formed recruiting and retention teams under the direction of Dr. Murray this fall, there is a request that the process of recruiting and retaining students is the responsibility of everyone on campus and not any one particular office. It is the hope that distance education will continue to enhance enrollment while at the same time ensuring the quality of these courses.

Other possible issues for the committee to consider were:
   1. reviewing the online evaluation instrument that was developed several years ago
   2. admission criteria
   3. training for faculty teaching online courses
   4. training for students taking online courses

Gloria gave an update on what’s new in Continuing Education and distributed several handouts. At some time in the near future, there will be a name change for Graduate Studies & Research to include “distance education” in their title. We will continue to be under the Graduate Studies supervision with Gloria reporting to Carol Lomicky-Associate Dean. There has been a recent name change for both Gloria and John Horvath’s two areas. Gloria’s area is now being called “eCampus” and John’s area is “Video and Audio Services.” Gloria also passed out an informational sheet detailing the responsibilities of each person within the two areas to assist faculty in determining who they need to call on for help. Gloria passed out two charts showing the growth of fall semester eCampus enrollments over the past seven years from 2000 to 2006. She also passed out the Distance Education Assessment Report that was submitted in September.
Two outcomes that were not surprising in the report were the student request for more online courses and the faculty need for increased funding. Overall, faculty were satisfied teaching an online course, it was more the time factor in developing an online course that was an issue. The retention rate for students taking an online course was quite high with only 5% dropping in Spring 2006 and 12% dropping in Summer 2006.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14 at 10 a.m. in CMCT/Room 243.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Saalfeld