

WCCFT Meeting with Department Chairs, Assistant Chairs, and Curriculum Chairs

November 6, 2013

Present: Hildy Oberstein, Barbara Chakmakjian, Wil Widulski, Melissa Hall, Eric Luther, Rosemarie Serrano, Craig Padawer, Lou Rotando, Adis Fazzino, Judy Langer, Mel Bienenfeld

The chairs were first asked to describe their existing concerns as they have been mounting over the last several years. Those mentioned were:

1. Growing administrative responsibilities from such mandates as SUNY General Education Assessment
2. Growth of other assessment work such as program review
3. Becoming overwhelmed with additional responsibilities such as the TTA reporting related to potential unemployment claims by adjuncts
4. Lack of a clear division between the duties of department chairs and curriculum chairs
5. Insufficient to nonexistent secretarial support; lack of clarity as to whether chairs may require certain work from secretaries
6. Increasing responsibility for equipment; insufficient technical staff
7. Increased enrollments with the same number of full-time faculty members, leading to more adjuncts to be responsible for and more complaints to deal with
8. Difficulty getting assistance with student issues from the counselors, who are themselves overloaded
9. Growing workload during the summer
10. Additional programs created by the College Administration, such as the ACE program in the high schools and additional programs at the extension sites

In the ensuing discussion, someone commented that many chairs would get out of the position if they could. Those present then discussed possible solutions to these problems, which included:

1. Additional time compensation (more release hours for chairs, assistant chairs, curriculum chairs and off-site adjunct coordinators)
2. Counselors who are dedicated to particular curricula to assist with student issues
3. Additional secretarial help

Finally, the new draft position descriptions were discussed. The union officers agreed to compare the new descriptions to existing ones to determine what is new about the new descriptions. Another meeting was to be held before the end of the term to allow more participation and plan further action.