

WKU Faculty Senate Academic Quality Committee
Report/Recommendations re: Dual Credit Courses

On Tuesday, October 4th, the Academic Quality Committee met with two DELO staff members, Dr. Beth Laves, Associate Vice President in charge of Summer and Winter Term Courses, and Dewayne Neely, Dual Credit Program Coordinator, regarding concerns about the academic quality of WKU dual credit courses. AQ Committee members present were Freida Eggleton, John Gottfried, Guy Jordan, Doug McElroy, Stephen Miller, Kelly Reames, and Huanjing Wang. In advance of the discussion, the committee sent Dr. Laves and Mr. Neely the following set of questions:

1. How is the quality of WKU-administered dual-credit courses evaluated? Are SITE evaluations given for WKU Faculty re: these courses? Are SITE evaluations given for high school faculty? How do the results of those evaluations compare to those given for equivalent courses taught on campus?
2. What percentage of dual-credit courses are taught by WKU Faculty vs. High School Faculty?
3. Is there some standard set of qualifications that a high school teacher must meet in order to be able to teach a WKU administered dual credit class?
4. How much do admissions standards for WKU administered dual credit courses differ from high school to high school?
5. What percentage of students who take dual credit courses administered by WKU choose WKU versus other KY institutions of higher learning, or other institutions of higher learning outside the state?
6. How do students who arrive at WKU with dual credit classes in hand fare in upper division courses versus those who take the same intro-level class at WKU?

More generally, what is your take re: the academic quality of dual credit courses administered through WKU? What is working well? What, if anything, might be improved? How so? And what would that require?

Dr. Laves and Mr. Neely provided us with a fact sheet and second document that addressed these questions at the beginning of the meeting. These documents have also been made available to the SEC. Additional details and information gleaned from the ensuing discussion will be shared at the SEC meeting on Monday, 7 November, 2011.

Recommendations

There is a strong consensus among committee members that the lack of useful data available to department heads and other faculty and administrators makes it difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of dual credit instructors on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, we move to:

1. Authorize Dr. Jie Zhang, Assistant Professor of Educational Research, in consultation with the Academic Quality Committee of the WKU Faculty Senate, to produce a program evaluation based on a dual-credit course information inventory. This evaluation can then be utilized by the University Senate to develop policy, if needed, to improve our dual-credit course program.
2. In the meantime, liaisons who work with academic departments must deliver, conduct, and turn in SITE evaluations for the dual credit courses that they oversee. In order to ensure that SITEs are printed for dual-credit courses offered in the spring semester, necessary paperwork must be filed in advance of the February 1, 2012 deadline.