

DRAFT MINUTES

January Term Assessment Committee
Monday, October 5, 2015

In attendance: Erin Brownlee Dell, Daniel Diaz, Betty Kane (recorder), Roy Nydorf, Janet Starmer and Rob Whitnell (chair).

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes, Sept. 21, 2015

Overview of January Term, 2016

The Committee reviewed numbers of applicants for Jan Term Study Away courses. Three programs, plus those that are non-Guilford programs, appear viable for upcoming Jan Term (and a few others are marginal). Concerns were expressed about sustainability of Jan Term in its current form. Concerns about number of offerings- too many? Uncertainty about the future of Jan Term negatively affects students' and faculty participation. Chair will be meeting with Academic Dean later in the week.

Questions:

- What is the minimum number of students we need?
- What types and how many experiences should we offer?
- How can we continue to offer Study Abroad in Janterm?
- How can we disseminate information earlier so students can plan?
- Pilot is on voluntary basis; what would be effect if Jan Term were required and built into workload?
- Why are retention numbers declining and is there any relationship to Jan Term?
- How could we attract more athletes?
- How could we attract more adult students?
- What about financial aid?

Reminder that JTAC's focus is on the question: Is January Term a way to address enrollment and retention issues?

Surveys

- Chair asked committee members to review proposed student and faculty surveys and send any suggested changes (with caution that surveys should remain brief).
- Chair will work with Academic Dean's Office and Director of Adult Education re. strategies to increase participation and response rates, including announcements in the Buzz, Table in Founders, ways to target FYS and IDS, and reminders during advising meetings.
- Timetable is for surveys to go out during the week after Fall Break.
- Chair will make announcement re. surveys at November faculty meeting.

Note that January Term is on the agenda for upcoming Division Chairs meeting.

Next Meeting: Members are requested to hold Monday, October 19, as possible meeting time.

Moment of Silence. Adjourned.