



Committee Breakout Name

Director: Malek Williams

Associate Director: N/A

Meeting Recorder: Ariel Festa

Assistant Recorder: N/A

Meeting Location: Worthington Scranton

Council Weekend # 2

Friday,

Call to Order:

I. Introductions:

- Name, Campus,

II. Old Business:

- Name, Campus,

III. New Business:

- Name, Campus,

IV. Open Forum:

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Adjournment:

Saturday, Nov 11, 2016

Call to Order:

- Malik : New online syllabi system where when you are looking at classes to take next semester you can view the syllabi from previous semesters. Altoona and other schools have a system that does this. So we want to do it, but also not have it be mandated, because if you mandate something professors will not want to do it. So, Altoona was able to do it and not mandate it and still have a good amount of professors participate.

Altoona: I have not looked at it. You should talk to chancellors and division heads in order to get professors to participate. If it benefits the students, professors might be interested in it.

Instead of working on the professor level it might be more productive to talk to the division heads/upper level admins in charge of the professors.

Colin, York: Question, why ask the professor when I can just scan their syllabus...

Malik, University Park: because it's illegal

Colin, York: oh, so you need their permission to do this?

Malik, University Park: yeah, yeah we can't really do that. We need to talk to the professor...we are trying to create legislation that UPOA would put through. We want to make this university wide.

Marcus, Hazelton: now do you know if this has been discussed before?

Malik, University Park: yeah

Marcus, Hazelton: some professors not really happy with it because they do not like having to learn new technology...

Malik, University Park: okay, yeah so to answer your point, yes its been talked about for a couple of years and have heard that complaint, but my answer to that is canvas is a thing so they have to learn how to use computers now so professors are moving towards the point where they have no choice but to use the computer also I remember when I asked the Altoona president on the polycom about I feel like it went really well at their campus and since the system change it works. The issue is the manual work into putting many syllabi on canvas or Lionpath. We need to find a way to make it easy with canvas.

Dinkleburg, Harrisburg: I know the majority of my professors have uploaded, emailed, or put their syllabi on Angel or Canvas so at Harrisburg it won't be an issue, a lot of students lose the syllabi throughout the semester and the professors don't want to have to reproduce it so many times. On Angel and Canvas there are already syllabi tabs.

Malik: it's not about accessibility of the syllabi it's about seeing it before we enroll in the class

Adel, Beaver: It would be an easy way for the department head or whoever who looks over the syllabi to post it instead of the professors directly.

Malik: At Altoona don't the professors upload it themselves?

Altoona: I believe so, yeah

Colin, York: what is the main objective to this?

Malik: I think its like "It's my syllabus so why should I give access to my syllabi to someone not in my class?" as well as not wanting to post or put up all the previous syllabi that are all only slightly different.

Colin: But couldn't they just start now and not go back?

Malik: I have been on Altoona's website and they some dating back to 2002

Jeanna, Worthington-Scranton: say you get it passed and could have this access to the syllabi, wouldn't it be helpful to access in Lionpath so you can see it when you go to schedule a class?

Malik: so yeah is there a way to pair it with software to do that... Altoona has a separate site... putting on Lionpath would require a lot of work. I sit on a committee with the IT directors for canvas so if we come up with an idea I can present it to them

Marcus, Hazelton: (to Altoona) So, how are your professors going into the website beforehand seeing that one class is easier than another?

Large group of individuals: It's keeping classes competitive

Altoona: We have not seen any significant changes to classes because people can see the syllabus on the website in terms of students choosing an easier class compared to a harder class. The main objective is the competitiveness and the work that would go into putting up their syllabus on Lionpath or Canvas. So maybe we can make it easier for them by saying they could give someone the syllabi and they could upload it for them.

Nicole, Harrisburg: We already know that people will shop around the first week of classes to find the one that suits them or is easier, just they have to do it after enrolling and with it being online it will just happen before the first week. So, we just need to put a positive spin on it.

New Kensington: we are a really small campus and for many classes there is only one professor to take so they will not see a reason to upload the syllabi ahead of time.

Unknown: If people see the syllabi ahead of time the amount of dropping will decrease.

Zack, Altoona: We should talk to people doing Canvas or Lionpath to see if this is possible so it is right there when you go to schedule.

demonstration of how Altoona's website works

Malik, UP: we need to find a way to incentivize this...

York: isn't it enough of an incentive for professors to know that other professors are doing it and might choose that class over theirs?

Harrisburg: you know how sometimes in your major course they sometimes expect you to already have something read for the first day but you don't know because you didn't have the syllabus? If you get it when you schedule there is less of an excuse to not have it done.

It would be preferred it on Lionpath but anywhere would be good, a separate website would not be preferred.

Malik, UP: It would be hard to get this on Lionpath because it has been so complicated so far and adding another piece might be too difficult to do now.

Zack, Altoona: maybe make a way to export the syllabi from canvas to somewhere else to get it to the students?

Malik, UP: so the idea is to take the syllabi from Canvas and upload/export them to Lionpath or elsewhere

Nicole, Harrisburg: is there a way to make a hyperlink to send you from Lionpath to the course catalog with the syllabi listed?

Malik, UP: maybe that could work?

Marcus, Hazelton: is there legislation for this?

Malik, UP: no but we could make some... remember to sign in...

legislation is written

● **New Business:**

- Angie: At the breakout, we discussed transitioning from smaller to larger campuses & issues that students face, possible solutions, and students' experiences.
- Kyle: At the breakout, we discussed first year seminars & mandated FYS for every student at UP commonwealth campuses in an effort to increase participation.
- Berks: At Berks, FYS are not part of the financial aid credit load.
- Worthington: FYS are incorporated into a required class.
- Berks: FYS are specific some majors and are a graduating requirement.
- Malek, UP: Some are tailored toward engineers and some are part of a general curriculum.
- Kyle, UP: There is a possibility of FYS being tailored but it would be based on campus resources.
- Brandywine: FYS are tailored to majors at Brandywine.

- Malek: I would like to discuss legislation to create online database of syllabi. Altoona has a good existing model to help students pick classes in terms of learning styles. How should we incentivize professors? What are the logistical issues? Legislation about FYS & syllabi will be ready by February council.
- Worthington: Is the future goal to get it on LionPath?
- Malek: Yes, we are looking to put it on Canvas first for feasibility.
- Abington: Are we going to push a deadline for professor as well?
- Malek: The next move is to talk to IT. UP will pass a separate legislation on the same subject.
- **Open Forum:**
 - Name, Campus

Adjournment: