

February 15, 2017

Don Wilathgamuwa
Melinda Tilton
Brent Finger
Leanne Gilbertson
Ken Miller
Elizabeth Fullon
Matt Redinger (ex-officio)

Bernie Quetchenbach
Jim Barron
Emily Arendt
Patricia Nichols
Scott Harris
Megan Thomas
Florence Garcia (ex-officio)

Matthew Queen*
John Roberts*

Tom Regele*

*excused

Jim Barron, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. in the SUB Missouri room.

The minutes of January 18 were accepted as presented.

I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

The ETS exams have been ordered and delivered. Last week, we sent out letters to students, one for “local” students in the Billings vicinity, and one for online students. It turns out that the Admissions Office cannot differentiate between online and on-site students. So, we sent the “local” letter to students in and around the Billings area. Any student farther than Columbus, we sent the online letter. The letters ask students to take the ETS test, and they will be given back the \$50 they paid for the graduation fee. This letter went to students who will be graduating Spring 2017 or later. The numbers were about 250 local students and a little under 100 online students.

Dr. Barron is the contact person, and he has received seven responses for on-site students. The online students are to contact him for a code, which they can use at the ETS website to take the test, which is timed. He has not heard from any online students yet. He hopes to get maybe 150 students taking the test this Spring. If we get less than 80, the data will not be helpful. If a lot of

students take the test and the \$50, it will cost the Vice Provost's Office quite a bit, but if we don't get a big response, that just strengthens our argument to make the test required of all students.

It seemed that the Senate wanted to see this Spring's data before we can require anything or put requirements in the catalog. So, the earliest a requirement could be put into the catalog at this point is Fall 2018.

For the on-site testing, we do need people to staff the six sessions. Dr. Barron will be present for at least four of the six. Mostly what is required is checking the students' IDs, giving instructions, administering the test, and gathering the finished tests. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

It is acknowledged that making the ETS test required of all graduating students will be problematic, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. We may learn something from testing all our students that we would not get from testing a sample and comparing them nationally.

It was cautioned that the COE tried a portfolio system about ten years ago, and it proved to be