Faculty Committee on Growth and Quality
11/26/12

Attending: Roy McTarnahan (guest). Sim, Amanda, Cecil, Margaret (Win arrived at 10:30)

Cecil introduced the problem related to growth and quality. There was a wide-ranging discussion of the need for increased political awareness of the problems faced by faculty, especially as related to workload.

Growth
There is an over-proliferation of degree programs that might need to be looked at, especially if these are under-enrolled.

Access
One of the other issues that we might consider focusing on is the problem of student access. Instead of focusing on education as an individual good, we have to begin to recognize that it is a public and societal good. This will help to reframe the current focus on incentivizing a limited number of degrees.

Further we might need to demonstrate how all of our students may suffer if we become over-enrolled and all students may eventually not get the courses they need to graduate.

How do we show how students are being disadvantaged by the growth without funding?
What are the quality control indicators that we can talk about? The default rate on student loans? Their lifelong earning potential? What the state is currently attempting to measure is not necessarily the value of an education.

Funding
In addition, we have to start looking at efficient ways to use funds. We might request to merge capital and operating funding so that we can creatively allocate budget dollars.

Competency assessment could be a money maker for FGCU. We might consider assessing prior learning skills that allow people to complete their degrees - e.g., Canadian Assessment Institute. FL has a statute that can charge for assessing competence. Faculty could be assessing competencies and also use as a funnel to bring in adults who got part of a college education but want to complete their degrees. How do we use our talents to produce outside income that are financially viable?

Strategies
What can we do to enlist the support all faculty? Perhaps all faculty senates should get together and speak with one voice.

mb 11/26/12