

## MINUTES

Undergraduate Studies Council

October 17, 2007

11:00-12:30

Present: Jamba, Jaffee, Corrigan, Schwam-Baird, Tanner, Hall, Wilburn, Reedy, Borg, Furtwengler, Murillo, Jones, Crump, Kaye, Perry, Turrin, Kaplan, Roberts

1. The minutes from 9/19/07 were approved.
2. Marnie Jones reported on the progress of the First-Year Experience subcommittee plan for a common freshman reading for Fall 2008 – UNF Reads. She reported that the number of potential books had been reduced to six: *The World is Flat*, *Nickel and Dimed*, *Freakanomics*, *Fast Food Nation*, *Stumbling On Happiness*, and *The Tipping Point*.

The General Education Council was working further on narrowing the selection down to one or two books. The Council was also collecting information on frosh reading programs at other institutions.

The committee then had an extended discussion on ways to ensure that the freshman reading program was effective and meaningful. The following suggestions/ideas were offered by various members of the Undergraduate Studies Council.

- The book will be incorporated into all ENC1101 courses. Leslie Kaplan reported that the Writing Program faculty are very interested in doing this and Karen Reedy indicated that 70-75% of entering frosh enroll in ENC1101.
- We need to pursue other avenues of integrating the book into the curriculum.
- We would like to invite the author of the book to campus. Some authors have very high speaking fees. Can we access funds through the Inquiry and Insight Series or the World Affairs Council?
- The book can also be integrated into the Honors curriculum.
- The book can be used to develop the first, or an early, writing assignment for all FTICs that could be used for the assessment purposes.
- The book should be connected to Week of Welcome activities.
- How can we ensure that students read the book and take this seriously as part of their academic preparation for UNF? This could be done through a brief presentation at orientation (give students some questions to consider), making it a part of Week of Welcome, set up a blog that would allow students to discuss the book before they arrive, and have residence life participate in the program.
- Faculty advisors could introduce the book during orientation.

- We should create a website for the book and the UNF Reads program.
- The UNF Reads project can be mentioned at Open House during the Spring.
- How can we have summer admits participate in UNF Reads? Use it in the courses they take in Summer B?
- For those who do not enroll in ENC1101, how can we connect the book to their courses in the Fall? (target sociology and philosophy)
- Sessions for discussing the book could be organized for all members of the UNF community as well as the broader Jacksonville community.
- There could be an essay contest for students related to the book.
- Can we involve Greek Life?
- How can the book link with the QEP theme and have a community component?
- We should choose the fall 2009 book well in advance for planning and possible invitation to the author.
- The author could visit campus, meet with students and the essay writers.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20