PRESENT: Arsenault, Berger, Borg, Choi, Crump, Falbo, Hall, Jaffee, Jones, Kaye, Mack, Milatovic, Perry, Reedy, Schwam-Baird, Senior (for Rick Roberts), Taylor, Wilburn

David Jaffee opened the meeting at 2:30pm. He introduced Mark Falbo, new Director for the Center for Community-Based Learning (CCBL) to the Council as a new member. Falbo explained what he’ll be working on in his role.

Minutes from 1/29 meeting were reviewed. A typographical error was noted, and the minutes were approved as corrected.

First Year Seminar
Marnie Jones announced that the College of Arts & Sciences has decided not to pursue an online venue for a freshman first year seminar course at this time, as discussed at the previous meeting. Jones said that she and others are working on an alternative approach, and will report to the Council on this at a later date.

Freshman Learning Communities
David Jaffee reported that he had met with chairs of various departments that offer general education courses, Karen Reedy from ACE, and the writing program, in order to develop an alternative approach to freshman learning communities or FIGs. Jaffee announced that in Fall, 2009, a limited pilot version of the plan will be implemented, linking several sections of College Writing (ENC1101) to larger social science sections, including Race, Sex & Class, History and Appreciation of Rock & Roll, Enjoyment of Music, Intro to Psychology, and Foundations of Business. Jaffee said that for assessment purposes, the control group would be those students whose classes are not linked or formally linked, and the group being assessed would be those whose classes are linked through the program. Jaffee said the Council is interested in seeing whether there is any added value to the students who have common courses through the program. Karen Reedy added that it has been determined that students would be allowed to withdraw from one course without being required to withdraw from the other linked course, when necessary.

Strategic Planning
David Jaffee reported that the recent SACS accreditation review went well. He said that the QEP and Center for Community-Based Learning projects were of great interest to the review team, and they offered some suggestions for these initiatives. Jaffee said a small QEP development team is working on making changes that they will send formally to SACS; that group will then be disbanded, and a new QEP implementation team will be formed.

Week of Welcome Proposal Presentation
David Jaffee explained that although the Council proposed that WOW be lengthened, the change will not be taking place this year. Jaffee said senior student Chris Arsenault has developed a proposal to address programming for Week of Welcome, and he’d like
to give Chris an opportunity to present his proposal and gain feedback from the Council before determining whether the proposed changes should be implemented.

Chris Arsenault introduced himself and distributed a handout detailing his draft proposal. He explained that he serves on the WOW committee, and that the committee has endorsed the idea of creating a pinning ceremony. Arsenault said he wanted to make sure that such a ceremony would have meaning and purpose, so he evaluated the UNF mission statement and core values, elements of Jacksonville history and UNF history, and UNF’s greatest strengths as an institution, to develop a pinning ceremony that would include all aspects of campus life, including academic affairs, student affairs, athletics and alumni. Arsenault described the ceremony as an annual student integration event, beginning as an initial point of contact for new students, then progressing to a transition experience for students as they move through their degree programs, and culminating with graduation as the final experience. He said he hopes this would help students to feel more connected with their university experience at UNF, and in doing so, effect improvement in retention and time-to-degree issues. Arsenault said funding for the event would come from the Week of Welcome budget and possibly also from donations.

The Council made some recommendations and identified potential challenges to the proposal:
- Integrate transfer and commuter students on some level
- Avoid tribal theme referenced in proposal and create a greater connection to UNF symbolism instead
- Gain feedback from students in designing the activities
- Connect student mentorship to this idea in a more deliberate way
- Use branding for continuity and easy recognition by campus community
- Address logistical issues of getting students and their families to commit to attend this type of event on a typical move-in day
- Possibly scale down some aspects of the proposal to make it more concise and meaningful for students and their families

David Jaffee thanked Chris for sharing his presentation. He asked the group if they liked the general idea of creating a symbolic act for officially becoming part of the University. There was consensus for this among the Council. David Jaffee told the Council that they could send any other suggestions they may have to Chris Arsenault via email.

David Jaffee reported that Rachel Broderick would present on Academic Roadmaps at the next Undergraduate Studies Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.
Minutes submitted by Melody Taylor