

Vitalization Work Group 8
Meeting Minutes 02/10/17, 2:00pm
2116 Blair Hall

Members present: Jeffrey Stowell (Chair), Samantha Boomgarden, Peter Liu, Kimberly Kuspa, Britto Nathan, Amy Rosenstein, Kelly Miller, Rene Kidd-Marshall, and Nora Pat Small.

Dr. Charles Wharram, Professor, Department of English, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Medical/Health Humanities. He mentioned that there is a steady increase in the number of students enrolled in the Health Humanities programs across the nation. He pointed out that most universities offering Health Humanities are private, and not public. Also, he said there are only two universities offering such programs at Illinois. Dr. Wharram proposed a new interdisciplinary minor in Medical Humanities. He mentioned that we have courses already available at Eastern, and colleagues from several departments are interested in participating in the Medical Humanities program. Dr. Small asked how this program is related to the new Health Communication major. Dr. Wharram explained the differences between the two programs and mentioned that Health Communication could also provide a course or two to support Health Humanities minor. Dr. Stowell asked whether we know the number of students enrolled in Health Humanities program at other universities, and if this minor is expected to increase enrollment at EIU. Dr. Wharram said that he will find how many students are enrolled in such programs at other universities.

Dr. Suzie Park, Professor, Department of English, gave a handout on a proposal to establish a university based retirement community. The committee discussed in length about the pros and cons of such retirement community. Dr. Wharram requested that the committee and the university community should explore the feasibility of establishing the retirement community. Dr. Rosenstein asked if other universities use private companies to manage such facilities. Ms. Miller asked if we

have thought about the cost of modifying the building. More specifically, would it be cost effective to build a new structure rather than remodeling a residence hall like Carmen. The committee discussed about the need for meeting specific living standards for housing retirees. Dr. Rosenstein asked if the retirees are required to enroll in classes at EIU. Dr. Park stated that retirees at the university community are not expected to take courses at EIU, but they could use university facilities, and attend programs and courses if they so desired. Dr. Nathan asked how the facility is expected to compete with local retirement homes. Committee members discussed several advantages of the university retirement facility to local retirement homes including, reduced cost, educational opportunity for both students and retirees, closeness to campus to use facilities and to attend campus events. Ms. Miller said that retirees of Eastern may like this idea as a retirement community at EIU will allow the retirees to continue their interaction with students.

Dr. Park gave a handout about creating a new work program at EIU. She stated that this program will offer a significant tuition credit as well as a cash stipend in exchange for a set number of guaranteed work hours in educational internships on campus. Ms. Miller said this may be interrelated to collective bargaining—replacing EIU employees with student workers. Dr. Wharram said that one way to address this issue is to link work program with educational program. Dr. Stowell asked would the recruitment potential will offset the cost of paying students to work? Dr. Wharram replied that other universities have benefitted from similar work programs. Dr. Park said it would increase retention since students would feel a closer relationship and ownership with the university where they work. The committee discussed specific jobs that students can perform at the EIU, including social media, website development, and maintaining EIU grounds.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Britto Nathan