Agenda: To prepare for upcoming meetings with department chairs and program directors

The focus of the meeting was to clarify key issues to discuss with department chairs and program directors in the weeks ahead. Essentially, we agreed that these conversations will be similar to those held with the deans in early December: we want to engage chairs (and key program directors) in dialogue about the types of courses/learning experiences in their areas; what they see (from a pedagogical perspective) as target (optimal/acceptable) enrollments in these different courses; what they think about fractional weighting of some learning experiences; and what instructional work is taking place without being counted in load.

Various members of the committee agreed to convene meetings with groups of chairs in the College. Patrece and Lloyd will confer with Jan Kindred in the SoM; Becky Oliphant will talk with chairs in the SoBA. Cindy will meet with chairs in the division of natural science; Kimberly with chairs in the social science division; Margie with Education and Counseling; Karen with chairs in the humanities division; Bob with Humanities Chairs/Program directors with studio offerings in Art/DA and theatre.

The first draft of our course list (posted on the Academic Planning website) will form the basis of our discussions with chairs. We hope, as well, to initiate conversations about what people perceive a “unit course” – or a course in the unit system—to be.

Ideally, these meetings will take place before we reconvene as a committee. In the meantime, we will share notes and impressions. All members of the work group are welcome to join the meetings.

Next steps: Review/discuss what we learn in these meetings with chairs and program directors, then revise our course type list; work toward our initial recommendations regarding target enrollments and weights, then share and invite feedback on those recommendations with the faculty as a whole.