

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Minutes for February 8, 2011**

Call to order at 3:33

Present:

Brian Ashburner, Jon Bossenbroek, Fan Dong, Hans Gottgens, Sally Harmyach, David Krantz, John Plenefisch, Don Ronning, Joe Schmidt, Friedhelm Schwarz, John-David Smith, Steve Sucheck, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Denis White, Don White

Absent:

Rupali Chandar, Randy Ellingson, Max Funk, Charlie Odenthal

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting after correcting the misspelling of names.

Information/Reports

Chris Habrecht gave remarks concerning the status of student services and advising following the reorganization of the former College of Arts and Sciences. The goal of the discussion was to remind/inform the council of policies used by the former college. Much of this was devoted to questions about replacing ARS1000 for incoming students and the need to begin planning for Rocket Launch in the upcoming months. There are still many questions regarding budgetary and other specifics. In this context, she mentioned that there would be a need for informed and energetic advisors to assist with Rocket Launch 2011.

Other food for thought concerned departmental specific admission requirements (some programs already have this. Biological Sciences and Pre-Med for example) and the definition of procedural requirements for students to gain admission to these programs after admission to either the UT Learning Collaborative or General Studies if the requirements had not been previously met.

David Krantz gave a WAC report. He highlighted the need for colleges to decide if they want to retain the WAC requirements that were in place in the former A&S College. It was also posed that many faculty members, not just in NS&M, that would like to see the WAC requirement expand beyond the former A&S College to include the entire university.

New Business.

Discussion concerning continued modifications to the constitution and rules. The discussion surrounded protocols for choosing/electing members for the executive committee, for the future succession of the executive committee chair and determining the vice chair position. It was proposed that executive committee members be elected by their respective departmental caucus. The executive council chair will be filled by the previous years vice chair. It was also proposed that the vice chair position will rotate in order through all college departments. The actual order was not decided, but someone mentioned simply progressing alphabetically. These proposals would be incorporated into a draft that will be brought forward for further discussion and a vote at the next meeting.

One new addition is that the NS&M Council Secretary is now an *ex officio* member of the executive committee.

A motion to approve all current changes to the constitution and rules was seconded. The vote to confirm the changes was unanimous.

Modification of the constitution and council rules is on-going

A report on the Chairs Meeting was given by Friedhelm Schwarz. One topic raised was the creation of more “schools” in the college. A second topic included discussions on the inclusion of the Department of Psychology in the College of NS&M. The third topic concerned the creation of an Outstanding Teacher Award for the college.

The next meeting of the NS&M Council was set for March 22nd.

Adjournment at 5:06 p.m.