

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council  
Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2016  
Student Union 2579 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Call to Order

- **Presiding:** – Tim Mueser
- **Present:** – William Taylor (acting secretary), Kevin Gibbs, Jim Anderson, David Krantz, Alison Spongberg (substituting for in for Don Stierman), Kathy Shan, Edith Kippenhan, Michael Cushing, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Charles Odenthal, John Bellizzi, Brenda Leady, Hans Gottgens,
- **Absent:** Deborah Vestal (excused), Yanfa Yan, Nadine Sarsour (student representative).
- **Others Present:** John Plenefisch (ex-officio), Bruce Bamber (Past Chair, ex officio),
- **Student Representative:** Sandip Janda (student representative).

**Approval of Minutes.**

Tim: Minutes from April and September not yet approved. Any corrections?

Charles: In september new business, math changes should not be to a "C" should be to a "C-

Tim: We will make those changes. Called vote to approve both minutes. Minutes approved. In old business, Hans volunteered for the next chair (2017) we need to call a vote. Motion approved.

In more old business we started to create undergraduate standings committee. We need to generate the documents to guide the work of that committee. Need on representative from each Department. Do this by email to generate relevant.

John P: We would like to have a document by the end of semester

Tim: So bring draft to next council meeting, and discuss or approve. Rather than use email going forward, we now have access NSM on the shared drive. (under Z drive). Everyone on council has access. Curriculum committee has uploaded documents already. Agenda, draft minutes will be up on Z drive, and anything coming out of the ad hoc committee. Just use your utad ID and you will have read/write access.

Edith: if you post word documents please enable track changes.

Tim: agree, or use pdfs that can't be changed. Leave it up to the committee whatever document type to use. Also, Z drive can be access from home. Next on agenda is curriculum.

**Reports from Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi)**

(WRT note: we discussed a number of course modifications that were still in the system, but had been previously dealt with, just had not cleared system. We did discuss one new modification to Chem 1200/1230. We also discussed pre-requisites for sequence courses)

David: D- comes out of state definition of what a passing grade is. That becomes default in banner unless the department or program says otherwise.

Tim: do we want to be consistent across the programs?

John B: the argument for C or better pre-requisite for Chem1230 was that there are statistics on students performance based on their grade of C or better in Chem1090.

Edith: David you had talked about making the change globally.

David: point I made is that all of programs, all of our departments should seriously consider making the pre-requisite pass with a C- if there is any pre-requisite course including for the next

level up to the 2000s, we should look course by course and consider changing from D default to C-. Chemistry and Math have statistic that show that a student barely passes the first course in the series, the chances of passing the next course are practically none.

Edith: can this change be made globally like through amnesty

John P: not clear if there will be another amnesty.

David: it may be possible as a College to request this change globally. First by taking comments from individual programs/departments passing this along to faculty senate, have them evaluate, if that is approved move to registrar. This could be College policy for introductory courses, this blanket change would be easier than requesting many course changes one by one.

Hans: if you do this globally have to be carefully. Students with D in introductory course may mean more cost to them since having to repeat the course.

David: but, they will get hit next semester they will likely fail outright if they barely pass the first in the series.

Edith: if students know about the pre-requisite, this may encourage them to step up and be prepared for next in the series.

David: get them engaged in their own study early.

Sandip: is this just to pass to next class in the sequence, or to get course credit?

David: every department has a sequence, the second one in the sequence has the requirement. So the policy refers to progress to the next course.

John B: people should take this back to their own Departments, and their curriculum committees to see what people say. Then report back to your NSM curriculum committee representative.

John P: this can be done with the specific sequence courses. But there are upper level courses that have pre-requisites that depend less directly on material in those lower courses. In that case, I am not convinced that a C is necessary.

Edith: but that would be Department call to determine which course is on this list.

John B: this discussion should go back to the Departments on a case by case basis.

Bruce: we would not have many course that fall into this category. Where we do have sequences we have C requirement already.

John B: So for Chem1230/1200 we can vote on changing the pre-requisite of both to grade of C or better in Chem 1090, or pass the placement exam. Call for vote, all in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

Tim: Next is report from faculty senate.

### **Reports from Faculty Senate (David Krantz):**

The relationship between Gaber and faculty senate continued to be good. Strategic planning is ongoing. There is open forum oct 25<sup>th</sup> for faculty. Student one is later same day. Goal is to compile input from faculty and other groups in the university in setting the strategic plan.

John P. At graduate council the provost expanded on how the process will work. The central committee collects info, looking for concerns, strengths. Then it will split into smaller committees bringing in other people to work on the specific issues in the strategic plan. So the central committee will not write the strategic plan.

David: Question came up at faculty senate related to strategic planning: is there direct input from each college? In NSM do we want to put together an ad hoc committee to provide input for strategic planning? – this remains open for discussion. Budget process appears more open with input from faculty. Bottom line, budget is relatively stable. No major initiatives. Heidi Apel spoke at that meeting. Our college has a lot honors students. She made a pitch to improve performance of the honors undergrads from NSM. Only 10-15% end up graduating with honors. Overall, enrollment is up. There is a strategic enrollment committee, looking into policies that we

could implement. One of five priorities Dr. Gaber has presented -- wants to improve research standing of the University. But not sure what that means practically.

Related to international programs are trying to improve opportunities for students and faculty like fulbrights.

Edith: a related issue, Saudi Arabia has added a new rule that tuition will be paid only to top 10% of programs. We have 784 students from Saudi Arabia, we anticipate that number to crash.

David: real quick point State subsidy, we are now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> fiscal year of the revised formula for state share of instruction. Number of completed FTEs and DFW rates are really important to bring money to University. So try to get students through successfully. The athletic support program - the pink/blue papers will be done online. Could include opt-in for one of their advisors to have viewing capabilities for your course in blackboard. Can only see the athletic students, not other students. You can enable a number of options so they can see what you want them to see in blackboard. I did this with success coach and it worked well, there are huge advantages for students that are red flagging.

David: In the third meeting Provost Hsu sent a memo about self-authored textbooks, following recommendations of the AAUP. There are specific recommendations since with a captive audience it can be construed as unfair business practice. With respect to shared governance, policies do matter, one positive change, administration working with faculty senate about the wording of proposed revisions.

John P: related issue came up in graduate council and there is discussion as to where graduate students should be included in policies.

David: The Provost is encouraging technology and automation improvement, like curriculum tracking, classroom scheduling. Review of college credit plus program – it is law at state level. One of the issues, used to be grades 9-12, now 7-12, could raise issues with grade 7 students in certain courses. It is free to the students, but there is some pushback since schools district is getting the bill. On positive side, 25-50% of students do graduate. Finally the banner upgrade is in place for some courses. Advantage is you can upload a spreadsheet of grades. Norm Rapino indicated he wants to help faculty with ideas that can be commercialized.

Sibylle: he is also trying to help find funding for projects, not just commercial.

Edith: the Provost indicates there may be changes needed for class cancellation, to avoid difficult situation with students. 90% of student evals are done on paper – looking into commercial products to do this (for example using blackboard). Can use incentive like extra credit to encourage participation.

Sandip: yes we had some extra points in one of my classes.

Charles: some people may vent if leaving comments online. Also may be relevant to faculty going up for tenure, ie changing the method of evaluation in the middle.

Tim: on to grad council.

### **Reports from Graduate Council (John Plenefisch):**

John P: GSA research award now live, nov 16 deadline \$2000 let your students know. Dean of graduate school went to UT BG retreat discussed creating combined programs between the two Universities. If you are want to create a combined graduate program with BG make sure to include her in the discussion. Miss classed policy for grad students is under evaluation by policy committee of grad council. Legal has advised grad college to update their grievance policy. Not sure what the issue was. Re: political neutrality on campus, Gaber and Hsu indicated that you can't use class time to campaign, you can discuss political topics if relevant to your discipline. Also student groups can't campaign in classes. Re: the budget, there are no cuts planned, but no extra money. Governor wants 0% tuition increase and has talked about tuition cut. Would like

2% increase in tuition or below. Just saying is long road ahead. Was a question about promedica agreement. She said the 2 billion over 50 years – only for college of medicine. No guarantee how other units will benefit from this. There is a 5 year plan on health campus as to what programs will be moving to the promedica system, that is clinical programs.

**Reports from NSM Chairs' meeting: Tim Mueser**

Tim: fair labor standards act coming into effect will apply to post-docs and technicians. Post-docs need to be paid \$47K, otherwise you need to pay them overtime. If they work extra hours, you have to keep track and pay the according. Flex time is considered, but still need to follow overtime. So you can pay the \$47K and they are considered salaried – then no need to track overtime, like other salaried employees. Also applies to technicians. Coby leadership training is expanded, 10 NSM grad students, or more, if students are interested. Provost had implemented a time line for scheduling for position requests. Book orders are due soon, summer: dec 7, next fall: feb 24. Also, College will get a new website, not sure when it will be completed.

John P: possibly end of spring. Also rogue websites run by departments will be asked to be taken down. All department website should be in University system. May also do more promotion for the Foundation through the website. Tony Quinn is doing we are STEM, traveling to Detroit, Florida for recruitment.

John: Barbara Owens at Marketing will also help Departments create brochures for promotion.

Tim: NSM has been tasked by the Provost to create a ad hoc committee to look at textbook affordability. The idea of library e-books was mentioned, students don't but the e-book, the library buys a bunch of licenses and students check out the e-book and return it, so a section may need fewer licenses. We need to come up with suggestions, like a white paper.

Mike C: many students don't read the book, they obtain information from internet, class notes first, then only then they read the book.

Tim: email me if you want to join the committee.

Meeting adjourned (5:05pm)