

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2015

Student Union 2591 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Call to Order

- Roll Call – Secretary - Edith Kippenhan
- Presiding: Bruce Bamber
- **Present:** Jim Anderson, Bruce Bamber, Jonathan Bossenbroek, Xiche Hu, Edith Kippenhan, David Krantz, John Plenefisch, Anthony Quinn, Friedhelm Schwarz, Kathy Shan, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Denis White, Yanfa Yan
- **Absent:** Peter Andreana, Mike Cushing, Hans Gottgens, Gerard Thompson
- **Others Present:** Christine Habrecht, Angela Koenig, Tess Newlove

Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2015 Meeting

The minutes for the meeting were presented to council via e-mail. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kathy Shan and seconded by David Krantz. The motion passed unanimously.

Curriculum Committee (Jonathan reports for Hans)

Summary: 3 minor course modifications and 1 new course

EEES 47/57/7790: this is a minor modification in the title and course description. This will allow DES to incorporate globally significant ecosystems in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, including Oak Openings and Lake Erie, in the course. Some flexibility in the pre-requisites is also being added. This would be effective for Summer 2015.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

EEES 66/8600: this is a change in the course description. The change is being made to address the diverse backgrounds of the current student population. The course will include a more contemporaneous emphasis on core ecological topics to go beyond the historical development of the discipline and classic studies. This will be effective for Fall 2015.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

BIOL 6020: The change is in course content and credits to better match the content and learning objectives of the course. It will be offered as an intensive 1 week, 8 hr/day class. This is similar to other DL courses in the Masters in Education in Science program that are offered in the summer.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

MATH 1180: the pre-requisite is being removed per a OBOR memo as this course will be a OTM course. It is designed to broaden, extend and deepen students' knowledge in math. Jim reports the change has been approved by the department's curriculum committee and chair but the paperwork is not yet complete.

Christine inquired about the placement standard and whether it would remain in place.

The Provost's office is interpreting the memo from OBOR the same way: OTM courses cannot have prerequisites. The memo pertains only to this course.

David reported that Florida did something similarly a few years ago and the failure rate skyrocketed.

There isn't a lower course available to advise students to take in place of 1180.

Council requests MATH to discuss this modification again and get clarification of the understanding of the memo. The vote on this change is tabled until then.

EEES 62/8200: this is a new course. Previously taught with a graduate seminar number, it is receiving its own number due to other graduate seminar requirements. This course establishes a mutually-supportive peer group among entering graduate students and addresses the Plan of Study and Graduate Advisory Research forms that are required of all entering graduate students at UT. During this course each student will draft a bibliography, formulates a preliminary research proposal and a preliminary scientific presentation.

Clarification about the evaluation of 6200 vs 8200 students was requested.

Pending further detail the motion to approve passed unanimously.

Chairs Meeting: (via e-mail from Gerard)

MATH 1180 & 1200 will be discontinued in AY 2017/8 according to Christine Habrecht. (Don White says they are staying).

Based on the discussion above about 1180, it is not clear which piece of information is correct.

The Dean of NSM is anticipating a 2.3% cut in the NSM budget. This cut will be independent of any potential 5% cut coming out of Columbus.

Faculty Senate

March 2: There will be a more reasonable approach to ADA compliance was expressed by David Sutri. The burden cannot fall only on the instructors. There is some wiggle room in compliance, e.g. if there are no students with issues in a particular section of a class.

Most important: There won't be any retroactive actions except for preliminary exemptions for which the instructors did not receive notification.

March 16: most of the meeting dealt with framing questions for the upcoming Presidential Candidate Forums.

New Business:

Sibylle reminded Council it is once again time to prepare for elections.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm with a motion by Jon that was seconded by Kathy.