

## Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2015

Student Union 2591 3:30 – 4:30 PM

### Call to Order

- Roll Call – Gerard Thompson
- Presiding: – Gerard Thompson
- **Present:** Jim Anderson, Bruce Bamber, Jonathan Bossenbroek, Mike Cushing, Xiche Hu, David Krantz, John Plenefisch,, Friedhelm Schwarz, Kathy Shan, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Denis White, Yanfa Yan
- **Absent:** Peter Andreana, Edith Kippenhan (excused),
- **Others Present:** Christine Habrecht, Angela Koenigs, Brian Ashburner.

### Approval of Minutes of February 24, 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

Summary: 7 minor course modifications and 4 program modifications. All except the last one were approved unanimously and the MS in Physics proposal was tabled. It was suggested that the proposal to change the prerequisites from Math 3860 to Math 2860 should instead change to Math 2860 or Math 3860 to accommodate students who took the class under the old numbering.

### March 2015 NSM Curriculum Committee report

#### Course modifications

|              |                                       |   |  |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| ASTR<br>4810 | Astronomy<br>for Science<br>majors I  | Change course title to<br>Astrophysics I Change<br>prerequisites from PHYS 3070<br>WITH MIN. GRADE OF D- OR<br>PHYS 3320 WITH MIN. GRADE<br>OF D- to PHYS 3320 WITH MIN.<br>GRADE OF D- | 1) Name change more closely reflects<br>the content of the course.<br>2) Prerequisite PHYS 3070 (Quantum<br>Physics for Engineers) is no longer<br>taught.   |
| ASTR<br>4820 | Astronomy<br>For Science<br>Majors II | Change course title to<br>Astrophysics II   | Name change more closely reflects the<br>content of the course.  |
| MATH<br>1180 | Mathematics<br>for Liberal<br>Arts    | Eliminate the current<br>prerequisites  | Without prerequisites, MATH 1180<br>complies as a credit-bearing, college-<br>level course in mathematics under the<br>new Ohio Mathematics Initiative.<br>Providing students with maximum<br>flexibility relative to choice of initial<br>math course is desirable. That flexibility<br>is achieved by having no prerequisites. |
| PHYS<br>4210 | Theoretical<br>Mechanics              | Prerequisite change   | Prerequisite change of MATH3860 to<br>MATH2860 made to be consistent with<br>course number change in offerings of  |
| PHYS         | Electricity and                       |   |  |

|      |             |  |  |
|------|-------------|--|--|
| 4230 | Magnetism I |  | the Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics. |
| PHYS | Quantum     |  |  |
| 4310 | Mechanics   |  |  |

Program modifications

|         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| BA ASTR | Change in program description  | This change applies to 'Honors in Physics and Astronomy' program and accommodates the change of MATH3860 to MATH2860 made to offerings of the Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics.              |
| BA PHYS |  |   |
| BS PHYS |  |   |
| MS PHYS | <p>From time to time our graduate program is faced with a situation in which a Ph.D. student fails the qualifying exam or sometimes fails at research even after the qualifying exam. In those circumstances we typically allow the student to stay until they have completed an M.S. degree. Since our M.S. degree requires PHYS 6140 (which many PhD students do not take) as well as 30 credit hours and a thesis, students who fail the qualifying exam often stay an additional year to complete their M.S. As a result, we have students who spend 3 years to get an M.S. degree. The goal of the project-based M.S. is to allow students who are in this situation to complete their M.S. within 2 years based primarily on their coursework. This allows the Department to offer an M.S. to such students without excessively "tying-up" precious teaching assistantships. Note that most Physics Departments offer such a project-based M.S. while other Departments in CMNS (biology, EEES) also offer it.</p> | <p>The proposed change is to provide an additional option for M.S. Theses in Physics &amp; Astronomy. A representative from Physics &amp; Astronomy has been invited to answer questions.</p> |

**University Council:** (from Friedhelm 03/20/15) There was a presentation on the academic performance of UT's student athletes: to summarize UT's athletes are doing well on the academic front. There was an update on the budget process that is due to be finalized by the BOT in May.

**Graduate Council:** (from several 03/24/15) There was a discussion of GC's By-laws. Dormitories were discussed. Carter Hall is to be vacated and the University will agree to underwrite a 95% occupancy of the new Honors' Dormitory. A possibly troubling development is the desire of the Provost to treat the Honors' College as a "marketing tool" and suggesting that up to 25% students could be in the Honors' College.

**Faculty Senate:** (from several 03/03/15 & 03/17/15): most of the first meeting dealt with framing questions for the upcoming Presidential Candidate Forums. In the second meeting there was a discussion about what to do about INC grades. Was it a good idea to reinstate IW grades for example?

**Chairs Meeting:** (from Gerard 03/05/15) Dean stated that there would be a 2% cut in the NSM budget for AY 2015/6. COGS would get 96.5% of its budget for teaching assistant stipends.

Added in proof: Scholarship day will be April 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be extra support for "targeted" (aka Professional) Master's Programs e.g. Photo-voltaics.

**New Business:**

Sibylle reminded Council that the deadline for the CCAP elections is 03/25/15. This year no election for Graduate Council is needed. Apparently NSM has lost one of its five seats.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm with a motion by Kathy that was seconded by Jon.