

## Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2012

Wolfe Hall 1240 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Call to Order

Roll Call – Secretary Jon Bossenbroek

**Present:** James Anderson, Brian Ashburner, Bruce Bamber, John Bellizzi, Jon Bossenbroek, Mike Cushing, Fan Dong, Hans Gottgens, Xiche Hu, Edith Kippenhan, David Krantz, Nick Podraza, Tony Quinn, Joe Schmidt, Friedhelm Schwarz, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Don White

### ***Motion to Approve of Minutes from November 13, 2012 Meeting***

**Motion by Kippenhan, Second – Schmidt, Vote - Unanimous**

Report from Curriculum Committee – Tony Quinn

- Issue of double dipping – can a course be used for major credit in two different programs?
  - Plenefisch – two undergrad programs – B.S. Biology and MedTech – an issue there.
  - Sentiment to retain current wording.
  - Gottgens – Complications in EEES – what if two majors require same course, what to do?
    - Quinn – Then do they just need to take an additional punitive course?
      - What then are the other courses they would have to take?
      - Just take more courses?
    - Krantz – How many courses overlap for Biology and MedTech?
    - Plenefisch – series of clinicals for MedTech, but also repeated Biology courses
    - Leaman – This will only be for returning students.
    - Krantz – non-thesis masters?
    - Plenefisch not appropriate
    - Gottgens – What about “a course can be used for two programs, but not count towards the credit hours”?
    - Schmidt – did we not change maximum number of credit hours that can be applied to a degree?
    - Ashburner – not in current catalog.

Council agrees to have the Curriculum Committee further discuss this issue and report back to full Council.

### ***Motion to approve a new course in EEES – Advanced Computer Applications EEES 2510***

**Motion from Committee, Vote - unanimous**

### ***Motion to approve a Course Modifications in 4 BIOL courses, including:***

BIOL3010, 3030 requiring grade C or better in 2170.

BIOL4030 – no longer require Organic Chemistry II, though still require Organic Chemistry prior.

BIOL4700 - no longer require Biol 3070 or 3140 as they are often taken simultaneously, require C or better in 3030 and senior standing.

**Discussion:**

Kippenhan – how to catch the grade requirements?

Often difficult to catch these requirements as our system doesn't necessarily filter these requirements.

**Motion from Committee, Vote - unanimous**

***Motion to modify the BS in Biology BIOL program to restrict the number of credits of BIOL 4910 that can be applied to BIOL elective courses.***

**Motion from Committee, Vote - unanimous**

***Motion to modify the BA program in BIOL***

**Discussion:**

Plenefisch describes modifications

Old degree hasn't been offered in 16 years.

The changes will be that Physiology course will be removed and moved to electives.

Math requirement is still the same.

Physics – reduced to one semester from two

Chemistry – reduced to one semester of organic chemistry instead of two

Plenefisch discusses rationale

Students would be encouraged to take other courses in the science by adding a pull-down menu and spread across science departments.

Kippenhan – Why split a split decision on this issue within the curriculum committee?

Gottgens gives argument for not approving the modifications:

When last offered, all biologists were in same department, now we have biologists in two departments. A course modification from an old program does not keep up with the times. The National Academy of Sciences lists recommendations, similar to the National Association of Science Teachers, that there should be a more comprehensive program. In the course description, it states in the first paragraph that the course provides a solid background in biology. However this degree program does not provide solid background in biology, because it does not require either ecology or evolution. Solid foundation should include Cell, Molecular Genetics, Ecology and Evolution.

On the other hand, if Biological Sciences pursues this degree, it should be labeled as a BA in Cell/Molecular Biology. It is a service to students to label programs appropriately.

Substantial discussion about the pros and cons of this degree modification ensued, including the following highlights:

Plenefisch – Students will be encouraged to take Ecology and Evolution.

Quinn – Surveys of students over the past four years, only 1 of 30 not in med direction.

Students realize that a BA doesn't get you far. Those courses are not required for med programs.

Leaman - Program targeted towards students that struggle with math and physics and are interested in med-tech fields. This is an issue of retention issue for the College.

Ashburner – Spoke with Dean Bjorkman and she is in favor of the motion.

Gottgens – Wonders why Dean Bjorkman did not consult with him or Department of ES after talking with the Department of Biological Sciences.

Plenefisch – Would personally recommend to student to take courses in Ecology and Evolution, but in the end it is their degree.

Gottgens – Recommends an ad hoc committee between the two departments to develop a degree proposal.

Leaman – Vote is specifically to request that there are changes made to the program.

***Gottgens – motion to table issue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Schwarz,***

***Vote: Aye – 9, Nay – 6***

***Motion is passed – changes to the program are tabled. This means that the existing BA in Biology remains in effect with no changes.***

***Gottgens – motion to create an ad hoc committee meeting between two departments to discuss and develop a BA in Biology; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Anderson.***

Discussion:

Kippenhan - Realization that we are in uncharted territory.

Ashburner – We have a BS – BIOM degree that meets National Standards.

Kippenhan – but the BIOM degree is a BS, not a BA.

Plenefisch – This is uncharted territory as this is equivalent to the Biological Sciences department having control over, for example, the Biochemistry degree in the chemistry department because part of the degree is biological.

Gottgens – That is entirely correct as this is the reason why the Council is responsible for overseeing curricular changes.

Quinn – One of the reasons I encouraged a vote in the curriculum committee is I didn't see the fruitfulness of an ad-hoc committee.

Schmidt – Call the question. This mean that discussion needs to be ended and a vote taken.

***Vote: Aye – 6, Nay – 7***

***Motion fails – There will NOT be an ad hoc committee created to develop a BA in Biology.***

However, if Biological Sciences chooses to modify the degree proposal, Council will review those changes.

Update on University Council – David Krantz

Approximately 51% representation from faculty, 49% from administration. First meeting Jan 18.

Why important now?

Provost Scarborough has held meetings with 5 different groups representing various constituencies within the University. Also discusses issues with a Steering Committee that has faculty representation.

All groups doing SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

Favorable impression of Provost Scarborough, appears to be open to hearing other opinions.

New Business from the floor - None

Announcements - None

Adjournment at 5:00 PM