

## Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2013

Student Union 2561 3:30 – 5:00 PM

### Call to Order

- Roll Call – Secretary - Edith Kippenhan
- **Present:** Jim Anderson, Jianglong Zhu (proxy for Peter Andreana), Bruce Bamber, John Bellizzi, Don Stierman (proxy for Jon Bossenbroek while he is on sabbatical), Mike Cushing, Hans Gottgens, Xiche Hu, Edith Kippenhan, David Krantz, John Plenefisch, Nick Podraza, Tony Quinn, Friedhelm Schwarz, JD Smith, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz
- **Absent:**
- **Others Present:** Brian Ashburner

### Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2013 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes with correction of Nick's attendance was seconded and then passed unanimously.

### Meeting Schedule

Most meetings will be in SU 2579, once construction is completed.

Meeting dates are Tuesdays at 3:30-4:40 pm on Oct. 15, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10, 2013 and Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18 and Apr. 15, 2014.

### Committee, Chair-Elect Finalization

Chair Elect still needed. Per Bylaws and Constitution, no one from the last two departments that were most recently represented, thus not from Env. Sciences or Physics/Astronomy. This leaves Bio and Math.

Friedhelm nominated Jim Anderson. David nominated Gerard. Jim graciously stepped down and Gerard accepted the nomination. The vote passed unanimously. With this position Gerard is also ex officio on the EC.

### Executive Committee:

JD is chair. The other members are Bamber, Andreana, Krantz, Anderson, Kippenhan and now Thompson.

### Curriculum Committee:

Tony will remain chair, for one more year. Committee consists of Quinn, Bellizzi, Gottgens, Cushing, and Thompson

### Election Committee:

Sibylle will continue as chair. Committee consists of Weck-Schwarz, Plenefisch, Hu, Stierman, Podraza and Schwarz.

Chairs: please send updates to JD a few days before meeting so he can include them in the presentation for all to view on-screen during the meeting.

### Summer updates from Univ. Council, Chair's Council, etc.

Chairs Council: David was not able to attend, but JD did.

- Interninohio.com was presented and discussed. UT will be working with them to promote various opportunities for our students to get internships, etc. This might be an opportunity to get the undergraduate research that is already being done on campus included and recognized.
- Postdoctoral designations are being simplified. Postdocs will be able to administer grants, e.g. be the financial PI. The question was raised as to how this will work since some funding agencies won't allow post-docs to be PI. It is possible that the new name will be different but won't have faculty in it, such as Research Associate. Currently there are 28 different designations. The goal is to bring the list down to only a few different ones.
- Online curriculum proposals and tracking is almost ready. Some have recently viewed the online form and verified that specific questions pertaining to old and new courses are correctly stated and included in the online form.
- NSM teaching forum – the goal is to draw the various groups amongst the faculty, post-docs and graduate students to one venue to promote discussions that are relevant to our teaching.
- Note: Kahn will be presenting tonight in Doermann Theater, overflow seating is FH. David: UT Admin wants us to become more like Kahn so we will all be affected by upcoming changes. Please reevaluate whether attending presentations and workshops devoted to teaching are worth your time – it really might be an effective use of your time.
- Enrollment is down approx.. 5% for 15. FTEs are down as well. This is in agreement with the budget projections, based on large graduating class for AY 12/13, but we also have a smaller number of students directly from HS. Overall the enrollment university-wide, for undergrad and grad, is down 2.78%.
- Theme for Homecoming: Rocket to the Moon and the Stars and Beyond

University Council – comprised of administration and faculty representatives

- The council has met twice.
- Per Dabney, a 30% decline in OH HS students is projected over the next 5-10 yrs. Gold stated that we will still have 20,000+ students who will want to be on campus, in person, to learn, so we need to diversify our portfolio of students that we will want to recruit.
- Supremacy clause was voted down, allegedly because it was a nightmare to change all the constitutions by the deadline, so instead a new resolution has come from University Council. It says the same thing.  
The question was asked whether departments that changed their constitution move to remove the last change. The reply was given that chapter is closed.
- The associates degree is being examined as a way to increase state subsidies. Should the AA be granted in order to maintain state funding? The consequences of doing so will be examined. The state subsidy formula already grants a higher subsidy for awarding a degree in a STEM field (factor of 2 higher).  
The subsidy is per FTE. Courses are assigned by the SIP code, which identifies them as a STEM course. It was asked whether the degree is coded correctly in SSI. Brian confirmed that the subsidy is included in the cost accounting for the college.

Meeting with Karen and Brian

Their top priorities of items to work on with NSM Council are:

- PSM degrees are being implemented in some departments, more to come
- BA degree in science  
Designed in part to retain students who are interested in science but have dropped from the BS track, it may also attract other students who are interested in science in general, but don't have a

specific interest area, such as non-STEM majors. It was suggested that maybe we could also push minors as a way to retain students rather than getting the degree in the major.

A proposal will be presented to council to vote on it.

- NSM Teacher Forum – see above.

#### Faculty Senate

Tony, John and Sibylle were there. The new success coaches (17) were introduced. Advising is done via portal, one advisor to one portal. Coach meets with student repeatedly and gets them through freshmen year. Their model is the tricollege office. The current intent is that further advising remains with the respective departmental faculty. A question was raised about the method to communicate this information to the freshmen students as only 30% of one orientation class knew who their coach was. It is possible that the percentage is so low because the news is shared via e-mail.

Cam Cruickshank reported about recruitment, stating that UT actually turned down students in the last two years. The ACT and SAT scores have hit bottom and are now on the rise; > 60. The single best factor for retention is good first semester freshmen courses, such as orientation.

#### **Remaining Constitutional Changes**

In the spring it was voted 23 FOR and 25 AGAINST, so changes to the constitution were not approved.

The BOT resolution obviates everything.

It was decided that NSM Council should continue to press forward cleaning up the various issues concerning consistency between our constitution and the CBA. Joe's insight will be sought after to make this as easy as possible.

#### **New Business**

No new business

#### **Announcements**

No Announcements

Adjournment at 4:29 pm.