

## Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2012

Wolfe Hall 1240

Jon Bossenbroek reporting

Call to Order at 3:30

**Roll Call** – Secretary Jon Bossenbroek

**Present:** Brian Ashburner, John Bellizzi, Jon Bossenbroek, Hans Gottgens, Xiche Hu, David Krantz, Nick Podraza, Tony Quinn, Joe Schmidt, Friedhelm Schwarz, JD Smith, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Don White (substitute attending)

**Absent:** Bruce Bamber, Mike Cushing, Fan Dong, Edith Kippenhan, Gerard Thompson

Minutes from September 4, 2012 Meeting will be revised and distributed

### **Guest Speaker, Chris Habrecht, Assistant Dean for Student Services (NSM, LLSS & VPA)**

Chris Habrecht led a discussion of requirements inherited from the College of Arts & Sciences regarding two majors (one degree) and two degrees

Difference between Double Major and Dual Degree:

A College confers degrees, either B.A. or B.S., thus within a College a student can:

1 – Double major in two subjects with one B.S. or one B.A. degree

2 – Be conferred with two degrees, one a B.A. the other a B.S. in different disciplines.

If the student is working on degrees from different colleges, they would be awarded Dual Degrees, one from each college.

There are some degrees that have been grandfathered in from the previous A&S structure.

For example, a BA Math and BA Econ is a single degree (BA) with 2 majors.

This issue is important when students want related field courses from different colleges.

Previously, under A&S rules, students had to meet requirements of both degrees **plus 20 additional credit hours of course work.**

The issue now is, do we as a college require additional credits to award a second degree from our college when the student is receiving another degree from another college.

Rules are currently inherited from A&S until we change them.

Quinn asked – Going forward... is this a college or university level question?

Associate Deans are looking at this issue.

Should a student be required to do something more to get 2nd degree?

Or, can a student get a 2nd degree with 120 credits (total).

In old rule – couldn't use courses in major to qualify for courses in second degree.

Podraza asked – How do other universities handle this?

Habrecht answered – University is looking into this question.

Previous philosophy – Degree is more than just a list of courses.

Curriculum Committee was tasked with providing the Council with synthesis of the issue and recommendation along with a basis on which to make a decision.

## **Report from September meeting of Dean and Department Chairs – JD Smith**

Issues with Special Topics courses

Are these courses repeatable?

If so, be careful how you name them so they can be seen as equivalent through time.

Total enrollment for University is down 5%, partly because of higher admissions standards.

Enrollment in NSM is up 7% – One of two colleges that went up.

Dabney's (UT CFO) budget was described

Dean Bjorkman is soliciting input on a strategic plan, which includes:

Goals for programs, renovations, degree programs, fund raising goals (e.g., departments developing list of capital needs)

## **Report on Faculty Senate Activities – Faculty Senate Members (Weck-Schwarz, White, Krantz)**

Weck-Schwarz and Krantz reported

No activities so far this semester

Entirely informational reporting at the FS meeting

Mike Dowd (FS President) – UT Leadership Retreat (in June)

Chancellor Gold – ratings and rankings systems for UTMC

Peg Traband (Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs)

Personally reviews promotion & tenure files

Emphasized teaching quality and service

Daubins – Service specialist

Committee on Committees – has not finalized Faculty Senate committees

Ben Pryor – COIL dismantled – Pryor is now the Vice Provost for Academic Program Development.

Friedhelm Schwarz asked – When does the University Council begin functioning?

Krantz – Asked the Provost's Office about this, no one knows yet.

## **Organizing the course sequence, Big Ideas in Science & Math – Brian Ashburner, Associate Dean**

Now is the time to start putting course together so it is ready and approved for Fall 2013

Course run by the College

Need committee with at least one member from each dept.

Needs to be through Faculty Senate approval by Dec./Jan.

## **Update from Curriculum Committee – Tony Quinn, Chair, reporting**

Preliminary discussion of the new policy defining credit hours by the UT BOT

Trying to find a metric besides "time" to define a credit hour

One of the implications is a student could pass an evaluation exam to get course credit.

Need to define what are criteria for passing a test and receiving course credit.

Ashburner – suggested waiting to hear what University is doing.

## **Organizing to address the proposed BS and BA in General Science**

Quinn – discussion should start with the Curriculum Committee

Ashburner – focus 1<sup>st</sup> on BA in General Science

Current proposal is **only** for a BA; does not seem appropriate to offer a BS in General Science (otherwise, the student should commit to a discipline)

What is the target audience and intent for the degree?

Ashburner – We have low retention. We need a plan “B” for getting a science degree.

Perhaps good for those interested in teaching.

The question was asked if this will require new courses?

Ashburner – No; should be able to use existing courses.

#### **Schedule for next Council meetings**

October 16

November 13 (the week before Thanksgiving break)

December 11 (during exam week); probably need to wrap up some business

#### **New Business from the floor**

None

#### **Announcements**

Quinn –Diversity training is now required for all departments and should be conducted through the department.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.