

## Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Student Union 2579 3:30 – 4:30 PM

### Call to Order

- Roll Call – Peter Andreana
- Presiding – Bruce Bamber
- **Present:** Jim Anderson, Edith Kippenhan, David Krantz, Kathy Shan, Don Stierman, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Hans Gottgens, Tim Mueser, Katharine Fisher, Kevin Gibbs, Yanfa Yan, Bill Taylor, Peter Andreana, Anthony Quinn
- **Others Present:** John Plenefisch (ex-officio)
- **Absent:** Mike Cushing, Denis White, Gerard Thompson

### Last Meeting:

#### Corrections to the minutes:

Sibylle: 2<sup>nd</sup> page: Jim who asked for C and P. Next to last page: Jim asked about electronic voting not Don

Sibylle: 2<sup>nd</sup> page there is a typo with Bill Taylor's name

Sibylle: 2<sup>nd</sup> page in Edith comment: change *their* to *they're* or *they are*

Sibylle: Kathy said something but we need to denote which Kathy

Kathy F: There was some discussion that was left out that should be added

Kathy S: Some discussion was left out – Science Education

Bruce: Peter to go back into recording to sort out who said what and add to last meeting minutes which can be sent out and voted on via email

#### Course Modification

Bruce: Let's discuss Point #3 since many people will go to the Senate meeting.

Hans: This is a modification in Chemistry for course 6200 – Course content does not change, this is simply a modification to make it easier to register. Currently the prerequisite is OChem II (Chem 2420). People going into the graduate program have to have that course but do not have to have that specific course. The premise is that students can have another course. The change is just not to have Chem 2420, but can also be admission into a graduate program in Chemistry.

Jim: Because to be admitted into that program they would have had to have taken that course. The big problem is that if they've done their undergraduate here it is not a problem but if they are coming from another school they would have that course with just a different number.

Hans: It's really a house keeping thing to simplify registration. Curriculum committee already voted 5-0 to approve.

Edith: It's not just if they came from another school, but if they've come from another country.

Tim: Is it common to have an undergraduate prerequisite for a graduate program?

John: There are other examples of this. There is some foundation for a particular level of expertise coming out of your graduate program.

Bruce: Doesn't this change undo a particular level of expertise expectation?

Tim: Yes.

Bruce: Then it's just incumbent on who is letting people into your graduate program who would make sure that they Organic Chemistry.

John: Question is: Would a student get admitted into the graduate program not having had Organic Chemistry II?

Tim/Peter: They wouldn't be.

Bruce: Need a vote.

Hans: Called to vote.

*Council voted unanimously to accept change as presented.*

### **Tenure and Promotions Discussion**

Bruce: Changes have now been made to the original document. The vote was pulled because at a chairs meeting it was decided that there was insufficient discussion.

Would like the council to vet the proposed elaborations before another vote is summoned. Attended a chemistry faculty meeting and aside from a couple of wording issues, not much more has been noted.

Yanfa: Ultimately there is some very minor language that needs to be vetted.

Bruce: Role is to go back to Dean Karen with a report on where we stand. Math and Stats...what has been discussed/heard?

Kathy F/Jim: Meeting to take place. It's on the agenda.

Jim: He's only heard that small language changes would be required.

Bruce: If those proposed changes can be summarized, it would be very helpful. Hasn't heard much from Biology in terms of particular changes, only heard some positive feedback.

Bruce: John Gray has just arrived to substitute for Tony Quinn. Environmental Sciences would be the last of the college units and Hans has a few things to say.

Hans: Any of my colleagues heard about anything regarding this document?

David K: No I have not. We had a departmental meeting around Thanksgiving and at the time there weren't any major comments.

Bruce: And at that meeting, was Karen's version discussed?

David K: No it wasn't. It was the one we had worked on in this group, not Karen's modifications.

Bruce: But it was the version with the red highlighted text that I had added.

David K: Yes.

Bruce: Ok good because those were the most substantive changes. Hans' comments are placed on the screen.

Hans: Now these are just my personal opinions. Keep in mind that Dean Karen has asked us for feedback, but remember that this is Dean Karen's document. Somewhere

in the document under “Professional Activity” it states that for certain fields professional activity may...public engagement, workshops...etc. Hans feels that these are things of Professional Service. Notes that it is repeated in Service section of the document. Thought it could have been a left over remnant of the Arts and Sciences document but in Hans’ opinion Public Engagement is a Professional Service. Scholarly Public Engagement is not research. Also Editorship is a Service activity not a Research activity.

John P: If the CBA states that these are Professional Activity, you cannot strike this from the document. Cannot contradict the CBA.

David K: Irrespective of the CBA, what you’re doing is defining Professional Activity as research only. I don’t see it that way. I don’t see that in any mission of a university. But not only in NIH grants, NSF grants you need to explain how the research will be disseminated to the broader public. That is effectively outreach. I consider that Professional Activity and not only research.

John P: Some of this is in the document because there were people here who were in Science Education.

Edith: Andy J. is “education” but he’s primarily chemistry faculty.

Bruce: The core of what Karen wants is to broaden the idea of leadership particularly at the Associate to Full Professor transition. What I think is that the reason it is put into Professional Activity is because Professional Activity outweighs service in the perception of what you do heavily and I don’t think that perception is going to change. This is probably being done to make things more balanced.

David K: I agree with Bruce.

John G: An example would include research activities and then broader outreach, like workshops, reaching out to the public; actually required as part of your research grant and if you don’t it will get sent back to you. With NSF defining the research grant, it must have the outreach embedded in the grant itself. NSF are broadening what research means as it is no longer just done in the lab but in a much broader way. It’s not just about us thinking about research in a broader sense internally but what these funding agencies are also asking us to do outside of just the research lab environment.

David K: There are other agencies that are asking us to be more engaged in the public discourse. Presenting complex systems to the general public...outreach, public forums etc.

John G: Might help if there were solid examples of what constitutes Professional Activity and Professional Service.

Hans: I’m an editor and chief of a journal and I do not consider that research.

David K: I agree that it is not considered research but I do consider it Professional Activity.

Bruce: Take for example writing a review and giving a talk. One falls into research and the other falls into service.

Hans: The point is that service is not appreciated as much as research.

Edith: Karen’s goal is to equalize research and service/teaching.

Bruce: Might be good for me to have this conversation with Karen and discuss redefining the weight of the different sectors as opposed to blur the lines between them. In the long run, it is the better thing to do.

Hans: Just look at those faculty who do double the teaching to enable others to do research. It's just not a level plain.

David K: In referencing Dean Karen...we operate like an ecosystem and we shouldn't expect people to contribute in equal ways in any one area but to contribute in whatever they're good at.

Hans: I agree.

John P: I would go look into the CBA and make sure that we're in line.

Bruce: Two other things that Karen has stressed that may be relevant: 1) this is not the departmental elaboration and we have the freedom to re-write those as we see fit at the departmental level and 2) whereas we maybe balancing expectations we are not necessarily changing the playing field for incoming assistant professors where publication and grant funding success remains a major priority. My sense is that we could reopen the voting at any time.

### **Reports from the Councils**

Hans: Graduate Council – Bylaws and international students were discussed. The bylaws were proposed to be changed but then they kept them the same.

John P: They have not changed the bylaws at this point. They are being looked at some more.

Hans: There was a movement afloat to expand the privileges of people who are qualified to be special members of the graduate faculty. For example retirees. They can design courses or serve on committees or chair a graduate student committee. Movement for retired faculty to serve on graduate council as a voting member and to serve on graduate council's committees.

John P: Talk about international students and how they come here and connect to their home country to bring more students in. There was also discussion as to how international students can come here within 30 days of their start date but if they come too soon it can be a big mistake.

Hans: At the beginning of the meeting Dean Patsy talked about how numbers were down, enrollment in the graduate program is down as compared to last year. One of the more troubling issues is 140 decision sheets (students who have been admitted) but not accepted yet.

Edith: Was any discussion brought up about the declining budget?

Hans: No. No discussion was brought up and not sure if the budget is declining.

Edith: There was discussion about tuition waivers for graduate students and that the president has discussed a volition to have tuition paying graduate students which might be an indication of a declining budget. Might be more of a push towards PSM programs because they all pay tuition.

Hans: The budgets might have only marginally declined over a number of years. We've had a really good graduate Dean who advocates pretty effectively.

### **Chairs Council**

Bruce: Apparently our summer budget (university) numbers are \$3 mil short of previous year. When one examines the numbers, the shortfall comes from graduate tuition

student waivers. It's reflective in the number of credit hours the students need to take. Not really a crisis per se but it popped up as a declining number.

Hans: Does it have anything to do with how we went down to 9 credit hours from 12 credit hours?

Edith: The budget was based on 12 credit hours not 9 so that's where the shortfall comes in.

John P: Plus in some programs still requiring 12 hours a tuition waiver must be filed and therefore counted twice.

Bruce: Second point mentioned at the meeting was strategic enrollment planning going on and Dean Karen is part of that. It's just getting started but it will really get going January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The point of the planning is to address declining enrollment and a lot of the budgetary problems we're having is because our enrollment is declining. An external consultant firm has been recruited. They have worked for BG and BG got their tuition *enrollment* to go up. BG has managed to get their numbers up and ours have been going down so there is this perception of a marketing problem and a branding problem. There will be a lot of information provided to this consulting firm and as a result you'll be hearing from your respective chairs.

Edith: Many things need to get fixed including how students are recruited and what they're told about UT. Daughter was told about many things other than academic programs. Honors day is only mentioned about 2 weeks prior.

Kathy S: Same for physics. Told about Honors day 2 days before.

John P: Honors Day...February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Kathy S: We couldn't arrange anything because there was no time to plan. There are recruiting talks by other schools except UT with the exception of Pharmacy.

John P: Pharmacy and Engineering have dedicated recruiters, NSM does not.

Hans: As an aside, our college website needs improvement. As compared to other institutes, ours lacks by a large margin. Is it possible to get access, make modifications?

John P: People will be working to improve college highlights, news...etc.

Edith: Having a college student to assist would be helpful.

John G: Problem is that things have been done somewhat sporadically. Might be much better for our faculty to update their own web-sites. Those who can do it, do it. Those who can't should be able to get some help. I was originally told that we weren't allowed to update our websites. Having to go through 2 or 3 people or more, stuff just doesn't get done, however if I want to recruit students I'll have my own website that says come here.

Tim: So in chemistry we have an assigned webmaster or one person to handle faculty requests. If we want something updated we send it to them and they update it.

John P: There are templates that everyone must abide by. Can't have things posted that are not related.

Bruce: Even under the current restrictions, we should be able to make a more vibrant and attractive website.

Hans: We have a partnership in a telescope in Arizona that we actively participate in, there should be pictures on our website.

John P: The issue would become one of control and how to get things posted on the website.

Tim: Will this consulting firm take over and tell marketing what to do?

John P: No. They will suggest ways to improve the website. They will make suggestions.

Bruce: Just to comment on what Edith was saying about recruiting: Adam Hintz was talking about how to recruit students once you get them on campus and giving the recruiters a series of cards that they could walk by and say “there’s Wolff Hall, on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor cancer research, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor environmental research” and so on just so that people could take a look and see what is going on in those buildings.

Edith: The ACS chapter will post research posters on bulletin boards found on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Bowman Oddy. Just need to contact me and I’ll set it up. Goes for everyone in the college.

Bruce: The controversial discussion regarding 1770 has been pulled off the table. There will be no more discussion.

John P: IP protection –

Bruce: Mark Fox has been making sure that people don’t invalidate their rights to patents international and domestic by not disclosing things properly. The point here is to not disclose before you file a patent on anything that might be patentable. Our TT team is really good at deciding what is patentable. Mark Fox and Stephen Snyder are more than willing to go over your material with you just to find out if protection is even worth doing. If you do anything that is public posting, like a dissertation or a dissertation announcement, can be a problem. Anything that is open to the public can invalidate international patent rights. Mark will be coming around to talk to the units.

John P: Don’t have your student go and give a dissertation talk before you file the patent. Don’t invite outside people into it. Its common sense but sometimes we don’t think about that when we have our dissertation. Talk to Mark if you think there is something patentable.

## **Senate**

*The following is not Senate business: BB did not attend senate*

Bruce: There may be a onetime amnesty where course prerequisites can be corrected for things that have changed (changed numbers, changed names). Departments might be able to send things straight to the Provost and bypass all curricular controls lower down including us.

Bruce: Tuition based recipients cannot get merit based scholarships – Edith made mention of this. One of the downfalls is that a student could win one and it looks good on the resume but with this rule they’re deprived of a chance of distinguishing themselves. So Sanjay who is the incoming chair of Physics and Astronomy – he had a great suggestion which was let them with the scholarship then discount it off the tuition waiver.

Motion to adjourn

*Council voted unanimously to adjourn.*