

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for March 22nd, 2016

Student Union 2579 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Call to Order

- **Presiding:** – Bruce Bamber
- **Present:** – Peter Andreana (Secretary), Tim Mueser, Bill Taylor, Gerard Thompson, Don Stierman, David Krantz, H. Chen, Kathy Shan, Kevin Gibbs, Kathy Fisher, Hans Gottgens, Edith Kippenhan, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Mike Cushing, Denis White
- **Absent:** Tony Quinn,
- **Others Present:** John Plenefisch (ex-officio)
- **Student Representative (Member):** Dillon Marx

Corrections to last meeting minutes:

Corrections:

Dillon Marx last name was misspelled – needs to be corrected

Distinguish Kathy F from Kathy S

Bruce B: Called to vote for the approval of the last meeting minutes.

Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Mike C: One new course for approval. John has asked for corrections. Graduate level chemistry course. Course is called CHEM 5100 Principles of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry (Claire Cohens' course). New track in existing PSM degree. Total of 4 credits. Curriculum committee voted 4 For and 0 Against therefore unanimous although one did not submit a vote. It's a summer course for 2016.

Bruce B: Since the Curriculum committee already approved the course, NSM Council does not need to vote on it and the presentation of which is a formality.

Tim M: There are other existing courses in the books that are similar but this one represents the most appropriate way to do it for the degree since it will take place over the summer and will not affect any other courses.

Mike C: Concern – this is quite late and therefore the question is will it pass before the summer because other courses that were discussed 2 months ago have still not gone through.

John P: Graduate Council has not dealt with amnesty courses yet but there has been discussion to add more meetings to deal with the back-log. People are aware of the issues.

Mike C: Call to support the course.

Council voted unanimously to accept it.

Mike C: The only other one we need to do is one that needed some wording change(s).
Mike C: Call to support the course.
Council voted unanimously to accept it.

Bruce B: Elections – Sibylle

Sibylle: Nomination elections for CCAP and Graduate Council are ongoing. Sibylle asked the members of NSM Council to call on their colleagues to vote.

Hans G: Had a tough time getting the BlackBoard mechanism to work and the instructions were vague.

Sibylle: If there are problems, Sibylle should be contacted or Edith.

Edith: Can assist if need be.

Tim M: What is the typical turnout for paper ballots?

Sibylle: About 40 out of eligible voters. Normally below 50% cast their vote. Plans to send out reminders on Thursday and Monday.

Sibylle: Provided an explanation as to why the ballots are timed. It is the only way to do it in BlackBoard. Technical thing.

Sibylle: There are departments who need to find a representative member for CCAP for next year. Also Council members need to be identified.

Bruce B: Traditional reports from committees – First up Faculty Senate

David K: Discussion on Withdrawals and Incomplete grades – Nothing was concluded. There is/was a proposal to bring back instructor withdrawal and complications with that are that it directly affects student financial aid.

Sibylle: There was some wording changes made to Incomplete grades. Specifics were added.

John P: Preset grade rather than an F?

Sibylle/David K: Yes

Edith: There was uncertainty with the technology and whether or not it could work in the way so desired.

Edith: March 1st discussion – Search for a Title IX coordinator. Surprised to note that there were no faculty on that committee.

Sibylle: The Provost search was discussed but it's a moot point now because one has been identified.

Edith: The ad for the Dean of Graduate Studies is now out.

Edith: Discussion about cost of text-books. How to make it more affordable.

David K: There's some talk about Open Source text-books as a means to alleviate costs.

Discussion about cost...

David K: Cost of having graduate TAs is a huge benefit in terms of cost per student and the level of education.

Edith: One way to push back on publishers is to communicate better in the college because there might be numerous people using the same publisher or same teaching mechanism and therefore more to negotiate with.

Dillon: As part of your course syllabus, are you required to list a text-book?

Bruce B: If you have a text-book for your course you are supposed to list it.

John P: One thing to consider about reserving books from the library, if you have a summer course and need to reserve a book, plan a long way before because of the renovations that will happen over the summer.

Edith: The library will purchase books to be put on reserve. Great for the students.

David K: If the students are able to find out about the required text-books long before the course begins, the students will have a better chance of finding them online for lower prices.

More discussion about text-book costs...

Edith: Experiential Learning – We now have a state mandate that every school will have an Experiential Learning mandate. It probably doesn't affect us because of how one defines Experiential Learning. Co-ops/internships.

John P: We provided that info some time ago.

Sibylle: Budget process was discussed.

Edith: No budget increase.

Sibylle: Assumptions about the budget trying to make them more realistic.

Sibylle: Proposed revision to the public policy. All public employees are responsible for maintaining records for a period of time. Puts a lot of pressure on employees. Emails are also public records according to the proposed revised public policy. However, there are no means for providing tech support for doing so.

Gerard T: People said it was a minor change and we shouldn't worry too much about it...pretty disturbing.

David K: Freedom of information Act – proposed to keep info for 5 years. All emails are to be kept if the discussion is pertinent to the course you are teaching.

Tim M: There is a contradiction regarding Open Records policy and Student Privacy policy. How do they balance it?

David K: Considering FERPA regulations it seems unreasonable...I don't know.

Bruce B: Graduate Council Meeting

John P: Graduate Faculty Training event was very good and similar training should be provided to all graduate faculty.

Hans G: A faculty member from Canada gave the seminar. Person was an expert at graduate student interactions. A good model for both the faculty member and the graduate student.

John P: GSA had a report. GSA is still looking for judges. Also mentioned opened slots for student presentations.

John P: Admissions are up over last year (graduate). The process is moving quicker than it did last year. Enrollment should be the same as last year.

John P: Graduate tuition will remain flat next year. Undergraduate and graduate tuition will remain flat.

John P: Bill Messer gave an update about the Dean of Graduate Study search. Names will be posted online.

John P: Norm Rapino from the I-Corps Program spoke. Program leads to commercialization of your product.

Bruce B: Norm Rapino has NSF connections because he got us into the NSF with our material.

Bruce B: Chairs Meeting

Bruce B: A couple of minor things and a major thing:

1. Brian Ashburner and Michelle Solese/Martinez (same person) spoke about the learning enhancement center (LEC). Discussion was about Retention and Recruitment. LEC is in basement of Carlson. Many science and math students attend.

Kathy S: In order for the LEC to improve, they must get better teaching assistants.

Bruce B: Part of the discussion was about TA training and getting in touch with Michelle with some ideas would be useful. Need for better training.

John P: Further discussion surrounded the need to have a better line of communication between departmental help centers and the LEC. Need to coordinate them better.

Mike C: We are struggling with TAs ourselves. We don't necessarily want to give students multiple choice but you don't want to grade many, many long answer questions.

Kathy S: Reiterating Mike's concerns about TAs and both agree that if the LEC were to improve, it could be a very, very good thing.

Bruce B:

2. Push to improve undergraduate enrollment.

Bruce B:

3. Big news – Budget Cuts

- a. Our college made a lofty futuristic enrollment goal for the year 2016 which did not materialize. As a result, \$256K was taken away.
- b. We will also lose \$741K in carry-overs which we were accumulating from 2010 to 2014.
- c. We're therefore looking at a hit of about \$1 mil out of the college budget.
- d. Next year will be troubling as well because of a more realistic projected budget which will be cut by \$546K out of the operating budget of the college. That will hit us in terms of open lines, there will be no ERIPs, we're trying to keep the searches that are going at the moment but we can't be counting on that – the searches might not come to fruition.

Bruce B: The deadline to deal with the budgets will be on March 31st. There are not clear cut solutions at the moments.

Bruce B: No call for tech fee money this spring as we've have in the past. We are down \$100K.

John P: We've collected less tech fee because enrollment is down.

Bruce B: Some of the burden has been levied on us yet the enrollment shortfall came from other sources. Therefore the entire university is expected to take a 3% cut for next year. The idea behind President Gabor's 3% cut is to put us on more solid ground for the future.

Bruce B: Recruitment and Retention is as important as it ever was. That's the driver of the whole budget shortfall; we don't have enough student's coming in. There isn't much of a reserve; an \$800 mil budget and a \$4 mil reserve.

Hans G: What is the size of the endowment? I believe it's a lot more than \$4 mil. To say that there is only a \$4 mil reserve is a bit misleading perhaps. Presumed to be drawing off of the interest.

Bruce B: Presumed to not be touched.

Han G: Not sure what the mechanics of that are.

Tim M: Didn't anyone mention something about Promedica and if that's coming in to also help us over here?

Bruce B: It seems like it is entirely controlled over on the HSC.

Edith: They have presented that in the faculty senate. They're getting so much money but then getting tuition waivers.

Bruce B: Has anyone been presented with the details of Promedica contract? Seems mysterious.

Bruce B: Tenure and Promotion Elaborations

Bruce B: We have yet to complete the vote on tenure and promotion elaborations.

Bruce B: We had an executive council meeting back in October where executive members were charged with discussing the College P & T elaborations with their unit faculty members. Ideas were heard, brought back and a document was crafted. Document was then sent back out for comments/suggestions and then it was sent up to the Dean. A lot of input went into crafting the document.

Bruce B: Some concerns: Chemistry had some concerns regarding the technical aspect of the document. It was felt that those concerns were addressed appropriately. Physics and Astronomy...no comments. Biology had no concerns and Environmental Science has some concerns that have hopefully been addressed. Math and Statistics have a different view.

Gerard T: (From Math and Stats) Concern: Promotion to Full Professor – there should be no doubt. There should be a substantial publication record (in the elaborations document). Not far away with being on board with document but there are a couple of concerns. Problem in Math is that there aren't many opportunities for big outreach activities. 1st concern: In the Institutional, Professional and Community Service – impact of importance of community activity to publish research. How does one compare the two?

Hans G: Agreed that Broader Impacts in grant, if you have received the grant, is evidence of scholarship. The fact that you publish from monies garnered from the grant is evidence of scholarship. Only for the grants that you have received.

Gerard T: 2nd concern: other things can be considered for promotion outside of publications. If someone has been noted as marginal on CCAP, then they could come back and say they did X because it was in the elaborations. The decision to promotion to Full professor should be exclusive on your scholarly activities.

Bruce B: (Iteration from the Dean) There is a need for the professoriate to get involved to help improve the school. She is trying to incentivize the professoriate, especially during these very difficult budget times including the budget climates at funding agencies.

Bruce B: Some of what Gerard T talks about in regards to elaborations, could be misconstrued to mean that there are other things required to get promotion, i.e. more needs to get accomplished. But this is not the intention as there are many instances of "coulds" and "shoulds" in it.

Bruce B: There might be some validity in changing "will" to "can" in some of the verbiage used.

Discussion follows regarding the words "will" and "can".

Bruce B: Well Gerard, will changing “will” to “can” change the outcome, in any way, for your department?

Gerard T: Well I can’t speak for my department, but I’m inclined to vote against it.

Bruce B: Even with “will” to “can”?

Gerard T: Probably.

Bruce B: We then, so let’s just go ahead and do it.

Gerard T: Ok.

Bruce B: And see where we are after that because every turn of the crank takes 3 or 4 weeks.

Gerard T: That’s true.

Bruce B: I feel like it’s time to go.

John P: Are you going to provide the view in favor and the view against?

Bruce B: I plan to just show the document. I’m hoping that there will be discussion during that 2 weeks. We can come to some sort of consensus.

Bruce B: My final take on this is that Math and Stats will never be satisfied without provision in there and the Dean will never take it out and we’re at logger heads. So I think we have to speak with a vote one way or the other.

Motion to adjourn – 4:50 pm