

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council  
Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2012  
Nik Podraza reporting**

Meeting Called to Order at 3:35 PM by Chair Joe Schmidt.

Roll Call by (Secretary) Nik Podraza

**Present:** Fan Dong, John Plenefisch, Anthony Quinn, Joseph Schmidt, Donald Ronning, John Bellizzi, David Krantz, Jon Bossenbroek, J. D. Smith, Randy Ellingson, Nik Podraza, Denis White, Friedhelm Schwarz, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Sally Harmyck, Don White

**Absent:** Hans Gottgens

Minutes from January 24, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Notes from February Chair's Meeting: Joe Schmidt**

1. Mark Fox from Technology Transfer spoke about their role and capabilities (patents, etc.). He remarked how patent law is changing soon, such that ownership will reside with the first person to file the patent, not necessarily the first to make the discovery.
2. Administration is preparing for the upcoming commission on higher learning accreditation visit.
3. The budget for support of graduate teaching assistants (TAs) was released previously and guarantees funding to at least 95% of the allotment from last year. This allotment is designed so that more offers can be made to recruit high quality graduate students. A digression on the appropriateness of graduate application fees then occurred, and the fees are believed to be perennial as they are a small source of funding.
4. Ideas on creating "bridge" strategies for supporting research between funded grants were discussed due to the current relatively poor outlook on government-sponsored research.
5. Originating from an AAUP memo, it was discussed that most new hires will come through the research focused schools at University of Toledo. President Jacobs said this should be a positive move, and that even a tangential connection to the appropriate school would qualify.
6. Dean Bjorkman mentioned that the process of converting visiting assistant professor appointments to lecturers has been improved and should be more streamlined and easier than in previous years.

**Update on Faculty Senate Activities: Faculty Senate Members**

1. The Board of Trustees chair made a comment that they are an advisory board to the president and are not involved in day-to-day activities.

2. In regard to the Faculty Senate, the Board of Trustees commented that the senate should support the decisions of the board and advice from the faculty senate should be provided as a consensus and not a compilation of individual opinions.
3. The Board of Trustees stated that they will be looking at under-performing programs and focusing on areas that need additional resources. Faculty input was mentioned as being necessary for the board to understand these situations.
4. The Board of Trustees stated that the faculty should become more politically active at the state level, but how this was to be done (as cohesive entities, groups, or individuals) was unclear.
5. The situation of under-performing students was discussed, and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics may want to consider a college policy for these students. It would be beneficial to understand these students and this issue in order to increase our retention rate and improve the quality of students we would be retaining. This issue should be discussed at a future council meeting.
6. Ohiolink has been funded through 2014; Ohio Board of Regents is evaluating sources of funding beyond that time.
7. A task force is being created to study course and teacher evaluations over the summer. The basic idea is to overhaul teacher and course evaluations to streamline the process and improve effectiveness.
8. Sabbaticals were approved at the same level as last year. 5 faculty members from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics applied and all were approved.
9. The higher learning commission visit is next week. A faculty forum will be held on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the Student Union room 2582. The university self-assessment has been completed and is available online (<http://www.utoledo.edu/accreditation/pdf/selfstudy.pdf>).
10. Changes in the State Teachers Retirement System may be occurring.
11. \$500k increase in budget for the College of Graduate Studies will be used to support 35 teaching assistantships (~8 additional teaching assistant lines in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics are expected).

#### **Update on University Core: David Krantz**

1. Guidelines on revisions to general education courses have been forwarded to college and departmental curriculum committee members.

#### **Discussion of New Workload Policy: J. D. Smith**

1. The overall goal of the new workload policy is to legitimize non-teaching workload activities in the eyes of various administrative units, develop criteria describing faculty workloads, and codify the value of research in some way. These processes could make it easier to identify, retain, and hire good faculty members.
2. Dean Bjorkman is reviewing how each department chair within the college determines the workload policy of their faculty. These processes are not identical between departments within the college. In general, Dean Bjorkman is said to be generally supportive of current departmental processes.

3. The sentiment has been expressed that if workload assessment is reasonable at the department and college levels, then it would be trusted more by higher levels. Uniformity at the college level will seem like a credible approach.
4. It was stated that the faculty should present a united front on this issue so that the department and college level procedures are deemed credible.
5. Three options exist for addressing this issue: (1) do nothing, (2) draft a vague letter of support, or (3) draft a detailed proposal addressing individual items.
6. J.D. Smith will draft a letter of general support with more specific criteria, which will be circulated among the executive committee.
7. The council will request Dean Bjorkman to join the next meeting on March 20 so that we can discuss the workload policy (among other topics including hiring, etc.) with her.

**CNSM Curriculum Committee: Anthony Quinn**

1. Final Approval of Changes Related to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Core Curriculum:
  - a. All BS and BA programs are in compliance with the minimum numbers of credits within the major and major-plus-related courses.
  - b. For the BS in Biology, courses were added to the requirements causing the total credits within the major to increase from 34 to 43. The courses added included Biochemistry I and II, as well as a new math (statistics) course being developed for biologists and environmental science majors.
  - c. Additional courses were added to the BS and BA in Geology requirements.
  - d. Additional related courses were added to the BS in Physics.
  - e. The BS in Math (various specific programs) have increased the required number of math course credits to 38 with an additional 26 credit hours. Of the additional credit hours, 9 must be from three different departments within the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The language of the departmental requirements pertaining to the level of appropriate courses outside the department was discussed, but no changes were enacted.

*A vote was taken on accepting the package of new curriculum requirements. The package was unanimously approved.*

2. The Biology-MedTech Program was discussed. This program provides a BS in Medical Technology which requires 90 credit hours coursework at UT and an additional clinical year of the program at UTMC or ProMedica hospitals. The current program does not require calculus, and a waiver is being sought for this specific program. Going to ask that BS-Calculus be waived for this specific program. This program will require the Department of Biological Sciences to retain adjunct faculty for teaching clinical courses. Pre-clinical courses have been decreased from 107 to 90 credit hours. Students must pass all clinical courses with a C or better (as opposed to an composite grade point average) in order to satisfy accreditation requirements. 51 clinical credit hours are also needed to satisfy accreditation. *A vote was taken on approving the Biology-MedTech program. The program was unanimously approved.*

**New Business**

It was noted that elections for positions and committee assignments for next year should be conducted soon. This is being overseen by the Elections committee with the help of the executive committee.

**Announcements**

*None.*

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.