

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2012
Nik Podraza reporting**

Final Meeting of the 2011/12 Council Called to Order at 3:30 PM by Chair Joe Schmidt.

Roll Call by (Secretary) Nik Podraza

Present: Fan Dong, John Plenefisch (proxy-Bruce Bamber), Joseph Schmidt, John Bellizzi, Don Ronning, David Krantz, Jon Bossenbroek, Randy Ellingson (proxy-Mike Cushing), J. D. Smith, Nik Podraza, Denis White, Friedhelm Schwarz, Sally Harmych, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Don White

Absent: Anthony Quinn, Hans Gottgens, Gerard Thompson

Minutes from March 20, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Notes from April Chair's Meeting: Joe Schmidt

1. The budget situation is still unresolved, but in progress according to Dean Bjorkman.
2. The football suite for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM) was given up as it was deemed to be gratuitous.
3. Department heads should make nominations for outstanding alumni awards.
4. Faculty and staff awards for teaching, research, service, and staff will be given this year. Nominations for any award are open.
5. Assessment reports for departments within CNSM were positive. It was noted that there was not a clear distinction between the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in the assessment and should be corrected.

Final Report on Faculty Senate Activities: Faculty Senate Members

1. An executive committee report discussed the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and the changing structure of the university.
2. There is currently a draft constitution for a university council to act in an advisory capacity to the president. Overall, this organization would likely marginalize the role of the current Faculty Senate. The new proposed university council would give the faculty a slight majority among a thirty-member group of all university stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and administration. The president of the university would act as chair of this council. Faculty representation will be in the form of chairs of college councils, graduate council chairs, and some members of the Faculty Senate executive committee. Questions exist as to how this committee would handle curriculum decisions, but it is suspected that the Faculty Senate would handle modifications to curriculum but that new, larger changes would need to go through the new university council.
3. Revisions have been made to the bylaws of the Board of Trustees. These include that once the Board has made a decision, only the chairman may

- publicly speak about the opinion of the Board. Additionally, no Board member may criticize the president of the university in any public statement.
4. A new provost is expected to be hired by July 1, 2012. The position has been advertised and a statement of expectations has been drafted for the position. Academic credentials are required, but experience in government, private sector, etc. is also strongly encouraged. Faculty input on the search committee is somewhat limited, as there are only two members on the committee each with additional administrative responsibilities. Faculty members should encourage good candidates to apply for the position.
 5. A combined single degree for mathematics education was discussed, and negotiation was continued so that a better overall decision can be reached.

Final Report on Core Curriculum:

1. Modifications to the core curriculum were submitted to and approved by the Faculty Senate as a block. Implementation of the new set of general education courses is expected for the Spring 2013 semester.
2. For the Fall 2012 semester, existing students will be grandfathered into the old system. Students beginning in Spring 2013 would be under the new system. It is unclear how the transitions between the two sets of general education requirements would occur.
3. An issue regarding the new general education course requirements is that intermediate sized courses could be filled rather quickly and that more sections may need to be added. Essentially the same number of students would be funneled through fewer courses.

Final Report on Elections: Sibylle Weck-Schwarz and Joe Schmidt

1. Votes for elections will be counted on Thursday afternoon (4/26/12).
2. New departmental CCAP members need to be elected for those whose terms are expiring.
3. Joe Schmidt drafted a statement of thanks for Connie Butler for her help during the election reading: “The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council gratefully acknowledges Connie Butler, Secretary II and Assistant to the Associate Dean, for exemplary service in her efforts towards a successful college election. She is further recognized for her diligent efforts in constructing the nomination and final ballots, verification of eligible voters, and timely distribution of the election ballots. Connie is truly an asset to our college and the council thanks her heartily.” This statement was unanimously approved.
4. Resolution of voting / election software issues is still in progress.
5. Election results will be provided next week.

Final Report from Curriculum Committee: Anthony Quinn

Generally no comments, as Tony Quinn and John Plenefisch were at a Faculty Senate Programs Committee meeting. Curriculum changes as part of the new core are moving forward. All changes will likely pass and be in place for new incoming students.

Final Address from Council Chair: Joe Schmidt

1. Dean Bjorkman sent an email expressing her thanks for the council's hard work this year, especially with respect to the curriculum committee and the progress made.
2. Joe Schmidt thanked all committee chairs and the curriculum committee for their hard work, Nik Podraza for doing an excellent job as secretary, Faculty Senate members for their reports, and David Krantz for taking over as chair for the 2012/13 year.
3. Joe Schmidt overall stated that being chair for 2012/13 has been a learning experience of both positive and negative aspects of the university. Our college is strong, but should not become complacent. Administrative issues are well handled at the college level, but we are not immune to all problems.
4. David Krantz thanked Joe Schmidt for his hard work over the past year.

New Business

None

Announcements

Graduation ceremonies will take place on May 5, 2012.

Final Meeting of the 2011/12 Council was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Addendum: (added 4/30/12)

Elections results from Spring Elections (winners)

Graduate Council: Max Funk

CCAP: John Plenefisch

First Meeting of the 2012/13 Council Called to Order at 4:07 PM by Chair David Krantz.

Roll Call by (Secretary) Nik Podraza

Present: Fan Dong, Bruce Bamber, Joseph Schmidt, John Bellizzi, Don Ronning, David Krantz, Jon Bossenbroek, Mike Cushing, J. D. Smith, Nik Podraza, Denis White, Friedhelm Schwarz, Edith Kippenhan, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Don White

Absent: Anthony Quinn, Hans Gottgens, Gerard Thompson

General Comments:

1. New members include Edith Kippenhan replacing Sally Harmych, Mike Cushing replacing Randy Ellingson, and Bruce Bamber replacing John Plenefisch.
2. Karen Bjorkman and Brian Ashburner should be commended for being such good, accessible, and frank administrators.
3. By Fall 2012, we will have a new provost.
4. Faculty workload policies will continue to be an issue of discussion.
5. Student retention issues are being highlighted by the state and the means of obtaining state funding. Current retention rates are in the 60-65% range, but the university target goal is 80-85% retention. The college will have to address how to appropriately handle underperforming students within NSM and also those in service courses.
6. Big Ideas in Science courses will need to be finalized to serve as foundations for majors within the college and to assist students in synthesizing information.
7. Currently there are disagreements between the college constitution and bylaws with collective bargaining agreements. These need to be resolved. A Constitution and Bylaws ad hoc committee has been constituted to pursue these concerns over the summer months. This will be co-chaired by Joe Schmidt (Constitution) and Sibylle Weck-Schwarz (Bylaws).

First Meeting of the 2012/13 Council was adjourned at 4:26 PM.