

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Draft Minutes for March 22, 2011**

Call to order at 3:34

Present:

Jon Bossenbroek, Fan Dong, Hans Gottgens, Sally Harmych, David Krantz, Charlie Odenthal, John Plenefisch, Anthony Quinn, Don Ronning, Joe Schmidt, Friedhelm Schwarz, Steve Suheck, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Denis White, Don White

Absent:

Rupali Chandar, Randy Ellingson, Max Funk, John-David Smith

Approval of minutes from the Feb 8th meeting.

Selection of Committee on Elections

Fan Dong, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, and Don White were selected as members for the Committee on Elections. Sibylle Weck-Schwarz is the chair of that committee.

The first charge of this committee is to run the election of 3 new NSM representatives to the graduate council.

Old Business

Discussion continued concerning changes to the council rules and constitution. Modifications to the NSM Council Rules focused on Article IV section 1a – Election of members. These changes were given to council members prior to the meeting, so there was no discussion

These changes were approved by unanimous vote.

The discussion about the proposed constitutional changes focused on Article I sections 1 and 2. These discussions are on-going.

New Business

As per the discussion during last week's executive committee meeting, it was proposed that the NSM CCAP be composed of 7 members (1 from each of the 5 departments at 2 at-large). The respective departments elect their departmental members. Eligible faculty within the college elect the at-large members. The members of CCAP are not allowed to serve consecutive terms.

The vote to confirm these changes was unanimous.

Information/Reports

Steve Suheck gave remarks about the most recent Committee on Curriculum meeting. It was proposed that the College of NSM change the total number of honors credits needed to obtain a degree with honors be decreased from 42 to 33.

The vote to confirm this change was unanimous.

Additional discussion was stimulated by Chris Habrecht. Chris highlighted the importance of NSM having a designation code for incoming students who have not declared a major. The following was moved and seconded:

The College of NSM will accept new students who are undecided on a major as "B.S. Undeclared," but no degrees shall be awarded as Undeclared.

The vote to confirm this change was unanimous.

Other curriculum discussion encompassed possible changes to college course requirements. The major discussion themes were elimination/keeping a foreign language requirement and the creation of programs that could obtain special dispensation to eliminate some college requirements (the Med. Tech program in the Dept. of Biological Sciences was given as an example). Another option discussed is to split requirements along a line that divides the B.A. and B.S. degrees. In general, this would imply dropping the former A&S College requirements for foreign languages and other courses not part of the University Core for the B.S. program, while keeping most or all of those requirements for the B.A.

Discussion is on-going.

The next meeting of the NS&M Council was set for April 5th.

Adjournment at 5:25 p.m.