

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2016
Student Union 2579 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Call to Order

- **Presiding:** – Tim Mueser

- **Present:** – William Taylor (acting secretary), Deborah Vestal, Kevin Gibbs, Jim Anderson, David Krantz, , Kathy Shan, Edith Kippenhan, Michael Cushing, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Charles Odenthal, John Bellizzi, Brenda Leady, Hans Gottgens, Yanfa Yan

- **Absent:**, Sandip Janda (student representative - excused), Alison Spongberg (substituting for in for Don Stierman), John Plenefisch (ex-officio)

- **Others Present:** Bruce Bamber (Past Chair, ex officio),

- **Student Representative:** Nadine Sarsour (student representative)

Approval of Minutes.

Tim: Revised minutes from the October 18th are posted on the Z drive. Are there any changes? All those in favor of the minutes from last meeting say aye. Minutes approved.

Kathy/Michael – both having trouble accessing the z-drive using a Mac using various browsers. Will resolve through the help desk

Tim: Any old business – no.

Reports from Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi)

John B. we have one course to consider for approval. EES4755, Conservation of Biology lab.

Hans: Its 4000 level course for juniors and seniors, lab course that goes in conjunction with a lecture course taught every other spring. With new requirements for our majors to take more lab credits we are offering a new lab course. It is a 1 credit lab we taught for first time last spring as a special topics course. Has a pre-requisite of our 3000 level ecology class, so we do practical field applications mostly in spring.

Mike: Why not just make the lecture course 4 hours.

Hans: Not all the students need the lab. The lecture course already has a 4th credit for graduate students.

John B: Vote to approve the course EES4755. Motion approved.

Tim: Could you clarify what happened to all the course changes from last meeting?

John B: Only the two chemistry courses that we voted on were relevant, others were older and had already been dealt with.

Edith: Has anybody discussed the global pre-requisite change at their departments? (most departments have discussions that are still in progress)

David: If we have enough changes from D- to C- passing grade for a large number of courses, we as a College should request an amnesty window. From our department there were a large number of courses.

Bruce: We have already done this for some courses in Biology

Hans: In Environmental Science we discussed the issue that if we require a C- for a pass and a course is only offered once a year, you are putting students a year behind.

Deborah: We have done so for a 3000 level course but it is offered 3 times a year

David: Part of our discussion, we have gateway courses like 3050 most faculty think students need a C- to progress. As each department evaluates their requirement, keep that in mind. And when are the courses offered. The request for a global changes/amnesty for the D- to C- should come from Karen's office and then to the provost's office.

Tim: We should take this back to our departments and be ready with courses we want to change by next meeting.

John B: One other thing I wanted to bring up all of the honors advisors from various departments met with John P to discuss some proposals from the new Dean of the Honors College. Some thought they want to decouple college honors from department honors. Make them independent so students can do either or both. One possible change for the Honors degree is to add a required interdisciplinary course across all Colleges. The course could address real world problem solving and experiential learning. It might be difficult to fit into various curricula as another course in junior senior year.

Deborah: Can someone clarify the C- to D- change?

Mike: Motivation was that some students would progress to the next level in a series with D- and have little chance of passing the next course.

Edith: Some courses use to have C- as a requirement and with banner update this was changed to D-.

David: Default in state of Ohio is D- as a passing grade. So when banner is populated it adds D-. So you need to check banner if any of your courses have changed. It is not the catalog that changes; it is in banner that affects the degree audit.

Sibylle: One other thing, students are allowed to enroll, even before their grades are in if it is a course sequence.

David: And no one goes back to check.

Edith: Also look at your course descriptions in the catalog to make sure they have not been changed.

Reports from Faculty Senate (David Krantz):

David: Provost Hsu encouraging enhanced student success. Expanded discussion about building a realistic budget model, Kristen Keith working with VP for finance evaluating contribution margins from each academic unit, this is occurring at the level of the College. What we as Departments and Programs contribute to success the College. That information will be use to make budget decisions in the future. Provost Hsu will move towards fulfilling the HLC recommendation that we are to create students learning objectives across the University. i.e., what would any undergraduate need to know.

Sibylle: They were called Institutional SLOs

David: They may be similar to ideas in the core curriculum. As part of the strategic planning and strategic enrolment initiatives they are also evaluating the policies for financial aid and distribution of scholarships. Among the 14 Universities in Ohio we have the most generous discount rate (approaching 40%). Some of that is being questioned. This discussion includes incentives to increase enrollment, and retention and how to do well while you are here.

Edith: Under executive committee report it was indicated that we do not have a clear definition of what a credit hour is. Discussion is ongoing.

David: There is a definition somewhere, written by the Board of Trustees. One implication is that credit may be given for life experience. Full ramifications of the credit hour definition has not been discussed by the Faculty Senate, but is on future agenda. Intent was to bring this up for beginning of Spring semester. For a practical example – a student in first week of introductory class could ask for final exam to obtain credit in the course. Each of us as instructors would need that in head ready to go.

Jim: That would be for any course.

David: Yes

Edith: While it is based on life experience it could be a student that is good at learning directly from the textbook.

David: Also in the BOT bylaws, an administrator can override our grade decisions upon petition.

Jim: You can't challenge a lab course.

Edith: Depends how the syllabus is written.

Reports from NSM Chairs' meeting: Tim Mueser

Reports from Graduate Council (Tim Mueser – input from John Plenefisch):

Tim: I will present what John P provided as a report from Graduate Council. We had also a Chairs meeting. Dean Bjorkman raised issues with books, if a class has no book required, it will revert back to "book required" if a new instructor is added. John P indicated a request for post-docs and faculty judges for the Midwest Students Symposium to be held in March. We got an overview of Foundation activities. Nick Kulik at the UT Foundation indicated that they are now ranking alumni based on their departments and will supply them with department/College-specific information. The value of the degree is related to rank of University. The rank of the University is tied to the percent of alumni that donate. So they have done two things: online donation system for small amounts and requested each Department to come up with one small thing that alumni can donate to. Projects around \$5000-\$10000 that can be achieved via small donations.

New business, recruitment and retention – have a scholarship day Jan 21, hoping to recruit best students. Also will start a call-back program if a student drops out. Student services will be responsible up to 60 credit hours, if after 60 hours a student drops, it is up to the Department to follow up.

David: Will this be up to faculty or advisors?

Tim: Not clear, but after 60 hours it's up to the Department. This is a mandatory call-back program.

Also discussed the HLC assessment, one of the biggest problems is that they were not using the budget planning, and justifications during assessment. They now have to tie budget and

assessment, if you don't make a change if assessment says you should you need justification. Also, the Office of Research is now located in the R1 building located on the corner of Dorr and Douglas. Connie Schall, Prof of Chem. Eng., will be Assistant VP for Research and Sponsored Programs starting January.

Edith: This came out of strategic planning, everybody complained there is no way to find who does what – i.e. who to collaborate with. Connie is asking for our help: If you know of a website at another school that is good where people see who is doing what – forward that to her so they can work on our website.

David: Like a internal version of LinkedIn

Tim: We don't have a way for internal collaborations, we don't have a community.

David: Comment on a related approach, ASU possibly redefined the entire university around 4 or 5 central themes – there were completely interdisciplinary. They reorganized the University structure around those themes. They increased external funding.

Mike: They also hired many faculty.

Hans: re: Graduate Council. According to HLC requirements, everybody on graduate faculty has to have a terminal degree. A terminal degree differs per discipline. We have graduate faculty without a terminal degree. So membership committee has to go through membership.

David: Is this a requirement or a guideline? It is important to make sure before making changes locally.

Hans: Not clear if this is a requirement or a guideline.

Hans: If you do not have terminal degree you can substitute with appropriate experience.

David: I would guess most faculty in our College that are graduate faculty have terminal degree.

Sibylle: Does this refer to all levels of graduate faculty membership.

Hans: Yes

Tim: They did approve the change from 15+1 week semester to 14+1. That will start next Fall (2017). We are going from 50 min to 55 minute lecture to compensate. The classes will not start on the hour to allow travel between classrooms. Also going to do greater distribution: most of our classes are from 10 to 2. They will spread them out, and will have more on Fridays, and may make sure non-traditional students have access – with evening classes.

Nadine: Are they going to add a winter term?

Tim: The reason they are doing this is to create an intersession, which will be 4 weeks long. Spring session will start later, so there is time to doing a short course during the winter. The thought is that this will be taught as overload, for field trips, labs etc.

Jim: May help with study abroad.

David: Why is this overload, faculty may want to reduce their spring or fall teaching by teaching the intersession.

Tim: This has not been worked out. Not clear whether this will turn 9 month faculty to 8.5 month

Bruce: There are 750 minutes of instruction per credit hour, that will not change. If that is how you define your 9 month, this should not change.

Nadine: Most students are agreement with this.

Sibylle: As a 9 month faculty, the intersession is defined as our vacation time, so this may be why it is overload.

Tim: John P wanted me to say that NSM will not see change in reps to graduate council. Also said lots of discussion about strategic planning – wanted people to be as involved as possible. In main sections, they will have subcommittees with breakout sessions: 1) Reputation of UT; 2) Research at UT – Garcia-Mata is on that; 3) Student Success, Brian Ashburner on that one; 4) Fundraising; 5) Fiscal health; 6) Athletics; 7) The working conditions at UT; and 8) Curriculum breadth for departments. Each will generate a report that goes to the Provost. To move these forward, they are trying to decide what is long-term and what is short-term (5 years). The Foundation is involved. John P also discussed State share of instruction. Now its 70/30 tied into completion of courses/completion of degree. For doctoral programs, 20% of SSI is tied to research funding (of the 30%).

David: This is at the University level.

Tim: We made a committee for textbook affordability: Brenda, Edith, Allison, Kathy Kevin Jim

Edith: We still need to meet.

Tim: On the standing committee, we are at the same stage – and requested to be completed in December. The information will be in the Z drive. The committee: Bill, myself, Hans, Charles. All we need to do is submit our recommendations to the Provost.

Meeting adjourned (4:40pm)