

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2017
Student Union 2579 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Call to Order

- **Presiding:** – Tim Mueser
- **Present:** – William Taylor (acting secretary), Hans Gottgens, Deborah Vestal, Charles Odenthal, Don Stierman, Kevin Gibbs, David Krantz, Edith Kippenhan, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, John Bellizzi, Jim Anderson
- **Absent:** Yanfa Yan, Kathy Shan, Michael Cushing, Brenda Leady.
- **Others Present:** John Plenefisch (ex-officio), Bruce Bamber (Past Chair, ex officio),
- **Student Representative(s):** Sandip Janda, Angela Gorgorski (for Nadeen Sarsour)

Approval of Minutes.

Tim: motion to approve minutes from January meeting, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Tim: We had discussed whether the academic grievance committee should be a College or a Council committee. We decided to make it a standing committee as part of council. For this year we decided that the executive committee would act as the grievance committee. We have to change our council bylaws under standing committees to reflect this new committee that is populated before start of the school year.

Edith: Will academic committee membership be decided at end of the year?

Tim: It can be standing committee that does not change or it can be rotating members of council. The rules committee can discuss and bring back to council. But we need to add this committee wording to the bylaws.

Charles: The wording says referral by the Dean by formal written request – is that either/or.

Tim: I can strike the Dean out of the wording.

John P: It is a formal written request by the student and it must somehow indicate that they have done the previous steps in the process.

Vote to add wording to the bylaws passed: 16 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstain

Tim: Next on agenda is adopting policies and procedures. I will be meeting with Adam Hintz, since much of the information is from Student Services. The policies will go to the committee and be ready for next council meeting. Update on textbook affordability: the documents are uploaded to the Z-drive and approved by the committee and has been forwarded to Dean Bjorkman. The Dean has forwarded it to Department Chairs and the Provost office. There is a letter to the Blade upcoming that refers to the work of our committee – it will be in public domain.

David: How was this report on textbook affordability initiated?

Tim: Tasked to council by the Dean at the Chairs meeting. Likely in response to the State proposals to limit textbook costs.

Reports from Faculty Senate (David Krantz, John Plenefisch):

John P: In the State's budget proposal there are suggestions on how to hold down costs of college education. One of those is that colleges would be required to buy textbooks for students. In exchange colleges are given \$300/year from the State.

David: The \$300 can be added on as a fee, i.e. students would pay.

Edith: That is maximum per student per year.

David: A single textbook is \$150/semester.

Sibylle: Some students don't like it. Many students don't pay that much for textbooks, or they share them.

Sandip: So to make all students pay the same amount means some groups of students are effectively subsidizing students in programs where textbook costs are high.

David: We had a similar discussion at faculty senate. The state budget supposedly would impact all 4-year universities, not clear if community colleges are included. Inter-university council has forwarded a rebuttal. Textbook rule would be implemented fiscal year 2019. A textbook is defined as any required material for a course including online access.

Sibylle: Not including lab or art materials.

David: There will be a cost of creating a mechanism (for example to get textbooks back from students) one estimate is for UT \$18,000,000 total, (unreimbursed \$14,000,000.)

Jim: For an e-book there is no distribution. Otherwise we would need a system for distribution/storage, checking if books are still usable.

David: The unreimbursed cost does not include implementation. We would need an entire infrastructure. Currently the proposals are moving through committee maybe end of March.

Edith: Implementation is for fiscal year 2019?

Hans: July 1, 2018 is start of the 2019 fiscal year

David: The Governor's proposed budget includes a freeze on tuition and fees, a 1% increase in state share of instruction and textbook requirements. We have had 4 years of tuition freeze and are falling behind relative to inflation.

John: Western Governor's University will become part of state university system of Ohio able to offer degrees. This is entirely online university. Students can get a limited number of online degrees but can also transfer credits back and forth – we have to take their credits. The courses would fall under the TAG and OTM rules.

Don: Courses would have to go through state committees to accept them.

Edith: Some of Western Governor's is competency based – if you work in a field you may be able to take a relevant and get credit.

David: There had been a comment a while back that every time we download an electronic journal article is cost us \$9. Our librarian refuted this idea – stating to download since we pay a flat fee. One other important issue: Melinda Wright indicated that there is a recommendation to increase the minimum score on TOEFL. We now accept students 61 TOEFL, the recommendation is to increase the minimum score to 79.

John P: The Provost assembled an ad-hoc committee to look at writing practices across the University. They recommend moving to a minimum TOEFL score of 70.

Tim: How many students will this effect?

David: Less than 100. These numbers may change to become lower, many of our foreign students are from Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi government is limiting scholarships to Universities in the top 10% in the nation.

John P: Another thing out of the Provost writing report is that there are no ESL tutors at the writing center. There needs to be better support for non-native speakers. It affects undergraduates and graduate students.

Graduate Council Report (John Bellizzi).

John B: April 30 is the deadline for proposals for new and revised graduate programs. Application process is on the COGS website. This refers to new innovative, and/or interdisciplinary graduate programs or to make changes to current programs to improve. This is a pre-application that will be vetted by a council of associate Deans. They will decide with proposals should be developed in the more detailed proposals. There will also be announcement for an Associate Dean position in the Graduate College.

John P: One thing Amanda mentioned is that Bowling Green is developing a PhD in data science. The way the state is operating, if BG offers it, we won't be able to.

Edith: In past senate meeting, it was indicated that for duplicate low enrollment programs a student might enroll as a UT student but take the course at BG. Does this apply to these new programs?

John P: An agreement with BG would have to be in place first.

John B: There will be a new survey for all new courses a programs online after approval process to get info about experiential learning (externship, coops, etc.) information is used for "SARA" – which allows reciprocal authorization for out-of-state internships/externships. The survey is determined for new courses whether they fall under the SARA guidelines.

John B: There was a update on strategic planning draft plan getting department feedback. There are 5 focus areas, 8 cross cutting themes including research and creative activity. 2 primary goals in research: 1) make research more central to the University Mission, 2) improve research infrastructure. To support these goals one approach includes gaining national recognition in 3-5 areas of excellence. This will include a hiring plan.

John P: One suggestion to improve research reputation is to try to bring national and international conferences to UT. We are encouraged to think about what groups we might host here.

Hans: Several years ago we hosted International Association of Great Lakes Research.

Deborah Vestal: American Association of Cell Biology has funding for small meetings. These need to organized by graduate students.

Tim: Will research office provide support?

John P: Possibly, but action items needs to identified first.

Reports from Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi)

John B: March meeting is the last chance to have changes made this semester. So proposals need to be at committee by March 10. They will be posted on Z-drive and will be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee starting March 11. Committee report will be posted on Z-drive before next meeting. One new program is a minor in green chemistry and engineering. Faculty and administrators involved endorse the program. There is a long list of potential courses depending on the major of the student – these courses are already on the books.

There are a number of course modifications.

Math 1180 there is a title and content change to match the OTM (Ohio Transfer Module) requirements. Title will change from Math for Liberal Arts → Reasoning with Mathematics.

Next two are minor changes: EEES 3210 *Title Change*: Earth Materials I Mineralogy & Petrology → Mineralogy & Petrology, EEES 3220 *Title Change*: Earth Materials II Sedimentary Petrology & Stratigraphy → Sedimentary Petrology & Stratigraphy.

There are two other course modifications:

EEES 4650 *Title Change*: Geology Field Course → Geology Field Studies. Credit hours will also change from 6 to variable 1-4. Also a minor update to course content.

Similarly with EEES 5650 *Title Change*: Geology Field Course → Advanced Geology Field Studies. Credit hours will also change from 6 to variable 1-4. Also a minor update to course content.

David: We used to have the geography field course. We no longer do the formal field course, but instead a couple of individual field trips. This allows graduates and undergrad to go on same field trip.

Hans: With respect to program modifications: Our BA in environmental studies has areas of concentration. There is a new program in peace and justice. So we are adding a new concentration to make the 21 area of concentration possible.

John B: Next, program modifications: BA in Environmental Studies (Dept of EEES): Adding a new Area of Concentration in Peace and Justice Studies. Adding a course in Environmental Law students may use for social studies requirement. Update to eliminate obsolete references to the College of Arts and Sciences.

BA in Geology (Dept of EEES), Replacing EEES 4640 (Applied Geology, 3 hrs) with EEES 4650 (Field Studies 3 hrs) and adding additional elective EEES 4480.

BS in Geology (Dept of EEES), Replacing EEES 4640 (Applied Geology, 3 hrs) with EEES 4650 (Field Studies 3 hrs) and adding additional elective EEES 4480.

John B: Call for a vote to approve the new courses. Motion approved.

Reports from NSM Chairs' meeting: Tim Mueser

Tim: One new thing is that ARPAs will be online. Every year we will just update them. The state is requesting a report on duplicate programs. Many of the BA programs are being looked at. We have BA programs that match BG. But many of our students use those to get double majors. Provost wants to reinvigorate our research program. Medicine, NSM and Engineering are the three big research centers. NSM went from 12 million (2011) to 7.5 million (2016). Medicine

went from 28 million to 13.5 million. John P indicated that undergraduates will start using course leaf – a new catalogue. An online catalogue that tie when the courses are offered, and tied to curriculum tracking so when we make a change it will automatically be reflected in the catalogue.

Charles: When will it be online?

John P: First iteration without curriculum tracking by this summer (2017).

Tim: Tony updated the strategic planning; indicating budget cuts to janitorial staff can impact recruitment/student experience. UT treasurer has inadvertently mis-assigned tech fees – departments may want to look at that. They were taking the tech fees but not applying back to departments. Adam Hintz indicated that March 15 is priority registration. Also there will be a new degree audit form, training will be in NSM1000. He offered that student services will provide training. There was discussion on OTM for online science labs.

John P: The question is what should be in the online lab to be in OTM.

Tim: Some online labs are not meeting the OTM criteria. If you are reviewing online lab transfer credit make sure it fulfills the OTM before allowing transfer.

David: A while back OBOR was encouraging more online lab courses in OTM. But the proposal overall was not supported. So there will be very few if any of these, but the warrant close scrutiny.

New Business

John P: Does the student representative give report form government or related to student issues?

Tim: We can introduce that. I will add that as an item on the agenda.

Sandip: Twice a month if you have questions for students you can ask them, we will set up a survey monkey.

Sibylle: We will need to start elections by next meeting. CCAP at large, graduate council

Tim: We need to verify the blackboard voter list.

Sibylle: We get list of faculty from college and graduate school and cross check list as we set it up.

Meeting Adjourned 5:05