

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council Meeting Minutes
12 December 2017 in SU2579 3:30-5:00 PM

Call to Order

- Presiding: Hans Gottgens
- Present: Jim Anderson, John Bellizzi, Kathy Fisher, Michael Heben, Edith Kippenhan, Brenda Leady (secretary), Song-Tao Liu, Tom Megeath, Timothy Mueser, Kathy Shan, Qin Shao, Don Stierman, Rebecca Sturges, Deborah Vestal and Sibylle Weck-Schwarz
- Absent: David Krantz (excused), Hassam Quershi (excused)
- Others: Brian Ashburner, John Plenefisch.

Approval of Minutes

- November meeting minutes will be approved in the January 2018 meeting.

Unfinished Business

- None

University reports and Proposals

Faculty Senate (Edith Kippenhan)

- Hooding ceremony separate during full graduation ceremony.
- Duplicate programs are being looked at and agreements are being signed between different schools in the region.
- Barbara Owens from Marketing and Communication presented on the cleanup of the UT website making it more pleasant to view to potential applicants and easier to use.
- Sammy Span reported on new efforts from his office on helping students – wellness check, food pantry and men’s clothing closet. Intervention team now available to help students.
- A new protocol will be implemented to deregister students from sequel courses if they do not have the required minimum grade in the preceding course.
 - John P. Students will be sent an email telling them that pre-reqs have not been met. Please drop class and make other plans. 2nd email with same content. Students will then be de-registered manually starting Jan 5. Happens before classes start. Only applies to students who started under the rules of the current catalog year.
 - Kathy S. – It would be a good idea to save spots preceding class for students who are de-registered.
- Missed class policy discussed. Add to syllabi that this is an active-learning class or technology dependent class and participation is required. Some classes state that missing class can result in failing but UT has a policy to provide accommodations for missing class.
- Enrollment Management report from Stephanie Sanders. Expected enrollment to go up but it went down. Data clearinghouse to share data with other schools. We can see where students went instead of UT. Top 4 competitors are BGSU, OSU, Cincinnati and Akron. Not sure if travel ban impacts enrollment.
- John P. – any curricular business? Edith replied no. CHEM courses will likely appear at the January FS meeting.
- Michael H. – how will de-registration impact enrollment? Don’t we want to keep students?
 - Edith – better for students to be held back and then succeed then pass them and then fail again.
 - Wil not know implications for several semesters.
- Hans – Please keep eye on curricular matters for NSM being discussed in Senate.

Graduate Council Report (Brian Ashburner)

- Curriculum – 2 CHEM MS/ PhD mass spec courses in chemistry passed.
- Amanda gave presentation on seven priority areas for COGS.
- Cyndee Gruden discussed 4+1 and 3+2 template for programs. Committee working on this. Problems, for example, may include implications for financial aid.
- College Credit Plus students could have time to take graduate classes but only pay undergrad tuition.

- Tim – If course proposals are submitted to Provost Office, and they kick it back, where does it go? Had a course kicked back to correct SLOs.
 - John P./ Brian – Should be returned to instructor.
 - Tim – did a “friendly amendment” to not have to go through entire curriculum tracking procedure again.
 - John P. – As long as the changes are not substantial, it could be a “friendly amendment”. With the new curriculum tracking system, everyone in chain will be notified starting fall 2018(?).
 - Brian – HLC is looking for distinctly different SLOs in slash courses.
- Tim – Provost Office has been requested to be part of Graduate Curriculum Committee email threads.

College Reports and Proposals

NSM Chairs meeting (Hans Gottgens)

- Discussion about pre-requisites necessary to enroll in sequel courses.
- Discussion about PR grades. Discouraged because they aren’t funded.
- Holiday reception reminder
- New curriculum tracking system to be implemented in FA18

Council Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi)

- BIOL2980 title change and # of credit hours – Broadening scope for majors and non-majors.
 - Brian A. – This course was for student groups to travel for credit. No longer will be used for that. Instead, could be used as remediation course over intersessions.
 - Tim – Special topics courses are used in chemistry as trial courses at 3000 and 4000 level. After being taught twice and they are turned into a course with its own number designation. This is a Provost requirement.
 - Brian – Can change title to avoid that. Provides flexibility.
 - Curriculum Committee report approved by committee. Recommendation to Council to approve, and approved by Council.

Election Committee (Sybille Weck-Schwarz) – Nothing to report.

Academic Grievance Committee (Tim Mueser) – Nothing to report.

New Business

- Hans asked questions for David Krantz (absent). How many have an HSA through UT? Are you aware policy for contribution changed? Are you aware deadline passed before open enrollment deadline? All Council members with HAS replied affirmative to all questions.
- Hans - NSM College admission standards discussion for incoming freshmen. Started as part of NSM goals discussion. One way to increase ranking, prestige, and student retention, success and graduation is to increase enrollment criteria. We should have discussions between now and March and then make recommendations to Dean. The end result may be ‘no change’ or a recommendation to the Dean near the end of this AY for implementation in FA19 to change admission criteria (stepwise perhaps) for incoming freshmen and for transfer students. This is just the first of a series of discussions.
 - Hans - With help of Brian and John P., looked at data for past three years. Graphs of high school GPA and ACT, two main admission criteria, and retention rate from 1st to 2nd year. Criteria are GPA of 2.5 or ACT of 20. Hans will send his data slides to Council members. The is on focus on retention rate differences between entering students with low credentials (HS GPA <2.5 and/or ACH <20) vs. those with higher credentials.
 - Edith – Andy Jorgensen’s studies showed high school GPA was more indicative of success since it’s over 4 years than a one attempt ACT (or repeating the ACT to get a higher score).
 - Hans – Students who drop out after YR 1 have taken time and resources, reduce enrollment, and reduce course/degree completion rates. This may have implications for rankings, prestige and therefore enrollment. It may also impact finances particularly with respect to SSI.

- SSI funding is confusing. It is less driven by enrollments and more by degree completions/course completions with STEM weights added. SSI is based on 3-year averages starting in FY 14 and only completed FTEs are used in the formula.
- Brian A. – The biggest bang for your buck is looking at the numbers on the graph, not the percentage. The question is do you want to bring in students who will not succeed?
- Mike H. - Students to left on graph, i.e., those with higher academic credentials, are those we should target.
- Hans - Public relations/ perceptions issue. Low retention rates drag down perception and may discourage students wanting to enroll.
- John P. – Criteria could be separated by degree. BA might have lower criteria. To move to BS you'd have to prove yourself at UT. Students with higher marks could go straight to BS.
- Kathy F. – Didn't UT just require students to live on campus for two years?
 - Brian – Studies show living on campus increases retention. But other things are also important.
- Hans – There remains a distinct focus at UT on enrollment for many important decisions, including those that deal with the distribution of resources among academic units. Maybe success in terms of student retention, course completion and degree completion should be more important than head count.
- Question to council – What do we need to know to make decisions on recommending a possible change admission standards? Who do you want to hear from? What are our data needs?
 - Mike H. – We need to know more specifics about the SSI equation. We shift between quantity and quality of students but we need to know how that factors into that equation.
- Hans will invite Terry Romer, Director of the Office of Budget and Planning, to our January meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:56pm.