

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council Meeting Minutes
14 November 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, David Krantz, Song-Tao Liu, Timothy Mueser, Kathy Shan, Qin Shao, Don Stierman and Sibylle Weck-Schwarz
- Absent: Brenda Leady (secretary) (excused), Tom Megeath (substituting for Michael Cushing) (unexcused), Deborah Vestal (excused)
- Others: Brian Ashburner, John Plenefisch.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from October 18, 2017 meeting, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

- Introduction of new undergraduate student representatives Hassan Zafar Quershi (BIOL, 2018) and Rebecca Sturges (BIOL, 2018)
 - 1 year term subject to extension
 - Both also serve on the NSM Council's Academic Grievance Committee.

University reports and Proposals

Faculty Senate (Edith Kippenhan)

- Faculty 180 working well. Will be expanding use of this system to eventually all tenured faculty. Unclear if ARPA's for lecturers will use this system. All faculty have access now if you'd like to begin using it.
- ALICE training – please stay up-to-date with new cohorts of undergraduate and graduate students.
- Promotion and tenure guidelines under discussion at department level. Bring comments back to Faculty Senate. University guidelines are considered a minimum benchmark. Department guidelines will be more specific. UT currently doesn't have university-wide published guidelines.
- Bookstore committee recommending bookstore manager meet with departments.
- Rocket Care form available for faculty to fill out if you have a student in distress. Within 24 hours a student will be being contacted to try to provide them with what they need.
- Hans – Some UT student financial aid is loaded to the student's Rocket Card. Students then use that card to buy course materials at the UT Barnes & Noble Bookstore. As such, they may pay more than they would pay on-line where Rocket cards are not honored. Some matching program but list is short and has to be exact match (no custom books). It may not be fair to direct our most financially vulnerable students to buy at a private company with only limited competition. Student government is interested in the contract between UT and the bookstore through Freedom of Information Act.
- David – Diane Miller, Associate Vice President for Government Relations, on top of all sorts of issues. Email from AAUP regarding losing deductions for interest on tuition loans and taxing grad student stipends. New Research Integrity Officer is Wayne Hoss. Behavioral Responses Guide now available for your use. ALICE training – please mention this every semester in every class to potentially save lives.

Graduate Council Report (Brian Ashburner)

- PR grades being discouraged. Funding model is based on course completion. If PR, like IN, stays on the transcript for a second semester, UT doesn't get funding for that student's course.
- Office of Research is testing a new Conflict of Interest form for all federal grants to streamline process.

College Reports and Proposals

NSM Chairs meeting (Kathy Shan)

- Aware of issues over intersession while buildings are shut down. Contact Dean Bjorkman with concerns.
- Trying to provide a system to deregister students who fail a pre-requisite course and put them back in the preceding course. Only for courses where this pre-requisite has been implemented. Trying to work this out for spring semester.
- Rocket Scholar's Day is February 10. Experience Day is March 17.

- Everybody who is not math, please review CLEP science exam. Curriculum committee reviewed and will have recommendation for credit or not.
- No money in the budget. Everybody needs to live within their means. Dr. Bjorkman will meet with each department about strategic plan.
- Edith – Students registering for multiple section of same course. Registrar is working to curtail this.

Council Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi)

- November 2017 report sent out and available on Z: drive. Contains details of each item.
- 1. CHEM prerequisite course modifications (already discussed by council during Spring 2017).
 - Approved unanimously by committee. Recommendation to Council – Approve
 - Approved by Council.
- 2. CHEM course modifications (course title and/or descriptions in addition to prerequisite change) CHEM 2460, CHEM 2470, CHEM 2480, CHEM 2490, CHEM 3560.
 - Approved unanimously by committee. Recommendation to Council – Approve
 - Approved by Council.
- 3. New course proposals – CHEM 6340/CHEM 8340 Mass Spectrometry.
 - Approved unanimously by committee. Recommendation to Council – Approve
 - Approved by Council.
- 4. Modification of NSM catalog to permit NSM degrees with as few as 120 credit hours.
 - Approved unanimously by committee. Recommendation to Council – Approve
 - Each department will make their own changes after this is approved by Council.
 - Approved by Council.
- 5. Proposal to create new requirements for NSM College Honors
 - Approved unanimously by committee. Recommendation to Council – Approve
 - “Blue Track” proposed for NSM
 - Completion of Dept. Honors requirements in Major, Cumulative GPA 3.3, Capstone/ Thesis required
 - HON1010 3 credit hours
 - HON2010 or HON2020 or HON 2030 3 credit hours
 - HON3010 or HON4950 or HON4960 3 credit hours
 - Total of 27 Honors Credit hours (HON courses or honors section of other courses)
 - “Blue Track” approved by Council.
 - Second track is “Gold Track” requires 15 (rather than 9 as in Blue Track) of the 27 honors credit hours to come from HON courses in JSHC.

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

Academic Grievance Committee (Tim Mueser) – No report due to privacy. Convenes by petition only.

New Business

Edith – News article on 83 students accused of academic dishonesty in College of Business by using an app and someone who was able to share questions from the final exam. Need to bring this up with departments about various types of digital “sharing” going on. FYI, LockDown Browser only locks down that computer. Could have a second computer open to search for answers.

Sybille- Unable to attend Faculty Senate next week. Asking for a volunteer. Both David and Edit are already attending.

Hans – First goal of NSM College plan is student success. In this context, we need to think about requirements for students entering NSM for a BS degree. Current admission requirements are an ACT 20 or a high school GPA of 2.5. An ACT of 20 is actually below national average. The College of Engineering has been using an alternative approach with higher admissions standards (ACT of 22 and GPA of 3.0). Brian and Hans are collecting data to see if there is a link between low admission credentials and poor retention rate of first year those students with those qualifications

Meeting adjourned 5:00pm.