

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council Meeting Minutes
19 September 2017 in WO1240 3:30-5:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Introduction of New and Standing Members

- See NSM Council Membership page for current membership and terms (<http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/council/members/>).
- Welcome new members Song-Tao Liu, Kathy Shan and Qin Shao.
- Need student representatives.

Dean Karen Bjorkman - College goals, opportunities, and challenges

- NSM enrollment is up ~5% at the undergraduate level and 2% at the graduate level. NSM retention rate is also up.
- Outreach and engagement is up – Saturday Morning Science, Planetarium, and LEC public lecture attendance increasing.
- Challenges – Budget, recruiting and retaining students.
 - UT Presidents asks us all to be ambassadors for UT.
- Goals to department chairs and Honors are in progress.
 - Minimum of 120 credit hour undergraduate degrees. The goal is 80% of all degree programs for UT
 - NSM bylaws now state 124 credit hour minimum. This necessitates change in college bylaws
 - DFW students – no subsidy and no progress to degree
 - What are the barriers to success?
 - Math is doing a great job.
 - Piloting early start programs.
 - Improve time to degree in graduate programs (especially MS)
 - Develop new and revised programs
 - Pipeline programs and collaborations with Law, Engineering, Pharmacy, etc.
 - Professional and career development of students
 - NSM 1000 increased to 2 credit hours – more time for this material.
 - Need for similar program at graduate level.
- Research funding is up this past year.
 - Dean wants to form research advisor committee.
- Faculty, staff and alumni
 - Increase Faculty diversity (2 new women faculty signed)
 - Revise mentoring of new faculty.
 - Better engagement with alumni – working with UT Foundation and Alumni Affiliate on better tracking.
- Reputation
 - We need to be better ambassadors.
 - Anniversaries - 100th for Math, 50th for Astronomy, and 50th for all NSM PhD programs.
- UT Strategic plan implementation program will be required of each department.
- Open Questions
 - DFW issue with students registering for next class before final grades for pre-requisite class finished.

- John Plenefisch – Technical issues being discussed.
 - Starfish tracking software should help.
 - Midterm grades are helpful to identify struggling students.
 - Intersession – bridge courses for struggling students?
- Edith – Request for professional development for lecturers.
- Hans – NSM 6 year graduation rates?
 - Karen - 40-57% over several years (2011 last cohort).
 - Brian – 2012 and on is upward trajectory
- Hans – Does drop to 120 credit hours drops FTEs and income?
 - Brian – Unlikely - plateau at 15 credit hours and STEM courses have highest subsidies.
- Kathy F. – Asking for better connections among success coaches, academic advisors, and faculty.
 - Karen - Adam Hintz building better coordination.
 - Starfish should help.
- Edith – Large population of students on spectrum with or without high anxiety, can we get training?
 - Student Affairs guide being sent out with single point of contact 24/7 help line
- Tim – Questions on identification of Student Disability Services students
 - Karen - Disabled students must go through SDS – identify and outline accommodations.
 - Brenda - SDS information in UT syllabus template.
- Song-Tau – Research needs newer and more modern equipment. How do we support infrastructure?
 - Karen - Startup no longer completely funded by Provost. Each grant could request a few thousand dollars to be pooled for big items. No overall management of core facilities program at UT – increases duplication and maintenance costs. Medical School acts as separate entity.
 - Edith – Instrumentation Center should move out of basement for more visibility.
 - Song-Tau – Core Facility Tour held September 15, 2017.
- Hans issues open invitation for Dean Bjorkman to attend future council meetings.

Unfinished Business

University Reports and Proposals

Faculty Senate (Sybille)

August 29th - New Dean of Arts and Letters, Associate Provost, Dean of Library and 65 faculty.

Faculty 180 for tenure and promotion

\$1000 Rocket Recovery Grant – Office of Multicultural Student Success

September 12th – Dr. Graber

Upgrading U to A parking permits, UT held spot in US world and News Report ranking

Branding and marketing study this year – new slogan, pitch, identity

UT is a “good value” – lowest student debt in Ohio

Reserves are being called for disaster relief.

New classroom scheduling software – please alert Registrar with problems.

Proposing Men’s clothes closet for student work wear (like Kate’s Closet).

Charlene Gilbert new Dean of Arts and Letter. 30% of A&L is first in family – new initiative.

Proposal for college retention study.

Center for Advocacy now open in faculty and students.

Graduate Council Report (Song-Tau)

2 meetings so far.

New GSA funds for travel to meetings.

New chair is Andrea Kalinoski.

College Reports and Proposals - skipped

Council Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi) – Nothing to report.

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

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

Jillian Bornak was nominated and appointed to represent Physics and Astronomy on this committee.

Biological Sciences and Math representatives still needed.

Grievance policy on NSM policies and procedures website.

Edith – International students may have questions. How do we help.

Tim – All students should be told to look at website so no mistakes are made. Academic advisors required to help student.

New Business

Upcoming changes to Honors (John Plenefisch)

Upcoming changes to Honors to get medallion. This will affect what we want to do as a college. The major change is requiring only 27 hours to get medallion. NSM requires 33 hours now. Honors College requires certain classes in order to get medallion. Those courses are going through Faculty Senate process this fall. Dr. Heidi Appel would like to meet with colleges. NSM curriculum committee will have to approve changes to college honors.

Minimum of 120 credit hour degree programs (John Plenefisch)

This is in college catalog and approved by Faculty Senate. NSM catalog still states 124 minimum. NSM curriculum committee has to approve changes to 120 then report to Faculty Senate as done. Have to allow programs to be a minimum of 120. Part of state affordability policy.

Meeting adjourned 5:10pm.