

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2013
Student Union 2579 3:30-4:41 PM**

Call to Order at 3:30 PM

Roll Call – Guest Secretary – Nik Podraza

Present: Brian Ashburner, Peter Andreana, Bruce Bamber, John Bellizzi, Claire Cohen (substituting for Edith Kippenhan), Mike Cushing, Hans Gottgens, Xiche Hu, David Krantz, Doug Leaman (substituting for Tony Quinn), John Plenefisch, Nik Podraza, Friedhelm Schwarz, J.D. Smith, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz

Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2013 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes was seconded and passed unanimously with the amendment that the votes of confidence were tallied separately for tenure track / tenured faculty and lecturers.

Report from Curriculum Committee:

1. Proposers for curriculum changes must still provide paper copies to be signed by student services.
2. CHEM 6940/8940 name change was not approved at the previous meeting as there were questions remaining as to the prerequisite. A prerequisite of departmental approval was added for the course. Vote was taken and approval was unanimous.
3. As a note, the College of Arts and Sciences did have a 2-year Associate of Science degree, which is now nonexistent. This information may be useful should we seek to revive this degree program.
4. Chris Habrecht was present for a discussion about the requirements for second degrees and double majors. A document summarizing the text of the previous Arts and Sciences, current Natural Sciences and Mathematics, LLSS, CoCA, and proposed new NSM requirements. The primary change will be deleting the current requirement for 20 additional credit hours for a second degree, as was done in LLSS. A vote was taken to delete the requirement for 20 additional credit hours from the current text and approval was unanimous. Further discussion remains about how this should be applied to returning students.
5. David Krantz mentioned state pressure to reduce the number of credits for a degree to 120 hours. New degree programs may have to adhere to these stipulations, unless additional requirements are justified.

Constitution Changes:

1. Changes to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics constitution were discussed. Specifically, references excluding lecturers from votes of confidence on departmental chairs are seen as illogical. Further discussion about the status of lecturers remains but needs to be based upon input from the lecturers.

Updates from Chairs' Council:

1. J. D. Smith commented that February 8, 2014 will be “Scholarship Day,” whereby students will be invited for distribution of additional scholarship money—provided that the students make an early commitment to come to UT. These scholarships and

invitations are targeted to students with high academic potential particularly for out of state and meritorious students. \$1500 scholarships will be provided to students seeking enrollment in each department. These awards will follow students should they change programs and will be renewable.

Update from Faculty Senate:

1. David Morlock, the new Vice President of Finance and Administration, addressed the senate. He announced policy changes including “real incentives” such as half the net tuition for online courses returning to the home colleges and departments, half the net tuition from the four proposed branch campuses returning to the home colleges and departments, and flipping the “30 / 70” overhead so that 70% now returns to the colleges and departments (specifics were unclear). Additional incentives pertaining to teaching productivity were also alluded. He also provided an overview of the current financial situation at UT.
2. A ban on tobacco products on campus is being considered. The medical campus already has such a policy, and it is being encouraged by OBOR.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:41 PM.