

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2014

Student Union 2579 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Call to Order

- Roll Call – Secretary - Edith Kippenhan
- **Present:** Jim Anderson, Peter Andreana, Bruce Bamber, John Bellizzi, Don Stierman, Mike Cushing, Hans Gottgens, Xiche Hu, Edith Kippenhan, David Krantz, John Plenefisch, Nik Podraza, Friedhelm Schwarz, JD Smith, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz
- **Absent:** Tony Quinn (excused)
- **Others Present:** Brian Ashburner, Doug Lehman, Paul Erhardt

Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2014 Meeting

The comments about the loss of members on Council if Lecturers receive the same status as faculty is out of order. They should be moved to pt. 2 to explain the question about adding a 4th person for each department.

Room number was incorrect.

Motion to approve minutes was seconded and then passed unanimously.

Reports from Committees:

○ University Council

Last meeting cancelled, another coming up soon.

○ Chairs Council (JD)

Next meeting is on Feb. 20th. The largest issue was the budget and the process to balance it. The yearly statement was presented. The cuts for this year will be similar to those of last year.

A question was asked whether responsibility-based budgeting was coming. It is not known. >85% of our students are from outside our college, but we get 75% of their tuition and subsidy.

○ Faculty Senate

One of two meetings have been cancelled. The question was asked whether the administration have a plan for the upcoming massive retirement wave. It was stated that the administration will be following the strategic plan to determine which lines will be replaced or filled. The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting soon.

It is anticipated that a maximum of nine NSM faculty will retire (4 in math, 1 in physics, 0 in biology, maybe 2 in environmental science, probably 0 in chemistry).

Curriculum Committee: (Hans)

Per the changes shown on the screen:

Course changes will be voted on as one vote.

BIOL 2010 (survey course) – changing of the description in the course catalog to show a co-requisite and prerequisite. These are being implemented to improve student success in the courses Bio I and II (2150 and 2170).

BIOL 2150 (Bio I) – this is a change in the prerequisite to raise the entrance standard. This change is being implemented to increase student success in the course. The course currently does not have any pre-requisites.

Chris Habrecht and the Biology department with the assistance of Don White looked at the statistics and grades of the students to see whether the changes would make sense or not. This is similar to the structure of CHEM 1090 and 1230.

EEES 1020 – this is a change to give the course a prerequisite. This course (lab) was never meant to be a stand-alone course. EEES 2100 (Fundamentals of Geology) or EEES 1010 (Physical Geology) should be taken as well as EEES 1020 is meant to supplement the other courses.

MATH 1180, 1200, 1210, 1320, 1330, 1730, 1750, 1830, 1850, 2450, 2600 – the changes are in the prerequisites and they are necessary to match the OBOR requirements for OTM (Ohio Transfer Module) courses and core mathematics.

1330 – a small number of students took 1320 and 1330 concurrently
1320 will now be the prerequisite for 1330.

MATH 1340 – changes to the prerequisite as needed to match OBOR requirements as for the other math courses and to change its credit hours from 4 to 5.

MEDT 4060 – the credit hours for the course are being changed from 2 to 3 cr. hrs. This is being done to meet students learning outcomes better.

Vote for acceptance of the changes passed unanimously.

A change to PHYS 2130 was originally scheduled to be voted on, but the course modification form needs a correction. This modification will be brought up again at a later meeting.

MATH 1830 or 1850 were the prerequisites, they are being changed to become co-requisites.

This will allow students to start the program earlier and then be able to take the GREs in a more timely manner.

Some students will take the math courses first, so a grade of C or better should be listed for both the co- and prerequisite. A question was raised as to whether the course should have both pre- and co-requisites.

Program modifications will be voted on as one item.

Chemistry BA – was the typo in a past version corrected? This vote will be tabled to the next meeting.

Biology BA – MATH 2460 (Stats course) has been added to the current BA program proposal. The BA has been on the books for many years, so this is a minor addition.

Biology BS – MATH 2460 has been added as an option and a concentration in Neuroscience and Psychology has been added as well.

The concentration has four courses (BIOL 4250, 4910 lab, 4700, and one from Psychology).

Two of the courses are more from the biological viewpoint. Psychology is on board with this. If only a concentration in Biology is done, then the prerequisite for the Psychology would fill the social science credit.

This affects potentially 20-30 students per year.

MEDT BMT – as was discussed in previous meetings

MATH 2460 is added as an option to fulfill the statistics requirement.

BIOL 3150 (Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy) is added as an option to fulfill the anatomy requirement.

MEDT 4010, a clinical requirement, is removed and 2010 is added as a pre-clinical requirement.

This reduces the total number of clinical hours from 51 to 50

BIOL PhD/MS – replaces CHEM 6500/8500 (Biochemistry) with BIOL 6200/8200 (Advanced Signal Transduction).

The Curriculum Committee recommends that the program modifications as listed above be accepted by council.

The vote to approve the changes was unanimous.

Hans needs paper copies of any changes that have been submitted electronically.

Constitutional Update: (John B.)

Changes have been made and sent to Sibylle.

The question was posed how we should proceed in the transition time until the next vote of representation is done by the departments. Per the precedent with the separation of the three colleges, it was decided that the people affected by the changes (lecturers) should maintain their current positions until their terms expire.

One additional correction was found:

Article V Section 3 Membership – removed tenured/tenure-track to read

B. 1 additional **faculty** per 10

The consensus was that no vote was necessary on the change since it falls in line with the changes that were made and voted upon during the last meeting.

Elections Committee: (Sibylle)

Departmental reps are needed for Council and CCAP.

The following agreed to make sure that representatives for Council and CCAP will be elected by their respective departments by the last Council meeting on April 15th: Friedhelm will represent Math, Nik Physics, John B. Chemistry and John P. Biology, Don Env. Sciences.

The proposed changes to the NSM Constitution were made public on Feb. 26th.

Nomination ballots for CCAP at-large and Graduate Council will go out as soon as the information is received from the College of Graduate Studies.

Should all of the votes be put together when they go out to faculty?

Shouldn't faculty vote on accepting the constitution changes first and then vote on their representatives since lecturers will no longer be a separate category once the constitution is changed?

Constitution amendments to be voted on should be posted on the website at least two weeks before the ballots go out.

It was announced that council elections should start at the end of February.

Sabbatical Approvals: (JD)

This update was requested by the mathematics department.

University wide 8 sabbaticals (+2 from HSC) were approved.

The criteria for deciding approval are still unknown. JD is planning on bringing this up in University Council. Is this a cost issue?

There is a rumor that the “Dean should pick 2”. As far as it is known, that is not true at this time.

There was one in physics/astronomy and in env. sciences last year, and one in physics and in env. sciences this year. Math has had their requests turned down twice.

Is it because these don't fit into the Strategic Plan? It is possible that people will look elsewhere if their sabbatical requests are repeatedly denied.

Conservatively speaking, math could lose 4 people due to this. 5 people have been turned down for 2 open positions, workloads are up and salaries are down and now no sabbatical approvals. Is the goal to turn the math department into a pure service department?

The letter of denial to the candidate is a standard letter with no specific information as to why the request was denied.

Maybe the Research Council can help?

4 from Math, 1 denied by the dean, 3 others denied

1 from Env Sci was approved, possibly because it was covered by a Fulbright scholarship and the member took sabbatical at the same time.

New Business:

McMaster Colloquium – flyers on hand, please take one for each department and post. Please share news with colleagues in department.

Adjournment at 4:35 pm.