

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2014
Student Union 2579 3:30-4:15 PM**

Call to Order at 3:30 PM

Roll Call – Guest Secretary – Nik Podraza

Present: John Bellizzi, Don Stierman, Doug Leaman, John Plenefisch, Gerard Thompson, David Krantz, Bruce Bamber, Jim Anderson, Hans Gottgens, Friedhelm Schwarz, Mike Cushing, J. D. Smith, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Nik Podraza, Xiche Hu

Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2014 Meeting

Corrections regarding PHYS 2130 pre/co-requisite changes: the changes were voted upon favorably assuming that appropriate changes to the form were made. The minutes from the previous meeting must be amended to reflect this occurred.

Motion to approve minutes was seconded and passed unanimously with corrections.

Update from University Council, Chair's Council, Graduate Council, Faculty Senate:

1. Graduate stipends were discussed. At the last Chair's Council meeting these numbers were near 93% of the previous year funding. At Graduate Council more recently, the total graduate assistantship budget was reported restored to 100%. It should be noted that not all of this funding goes to the colleges, however. Questions remain about the number of credits for full-time graduate student enrollment, particularly during the summer semester.
2. Sabbatical evaluations were discussed. Currently one person at the provost office makes the final choice for sabbatical candidates, however it is widely desired that this responsibility be more evenly distributed. It was suggested that the University Committee on Sabbaticals could rank proposals in a given year. There are still questions regarding the current metrics and evaluation process for sabbatical proposals.
3. The budget shortfall was discussed. Optimistically, of the original \$18M budget deficit, \$11M has already been accounted, while some of the remaining \$7M has also been reported settled. Graduate tuition / fees have been increased by 1%.
4. Future hiring plans were discussed at Graduate Council, and it was noted that these plans must be strategic. Particular growing research areas will need to be identified, a rubric developed based on productivity in different areas, and likely will need to speculate on retirements over the upcoming years.
5. At Graduate Council, it was mentioned / discussed that graduate programs (PhD, MS, Professional Degrees, etc.) will be the sustainers of the universities, which will impact the development of future hiring plans.
6. Carry-forwards of budgets were discussed at Faculty Senate. Year-to-year carry-forwards of budgets have not been allowed for some time, although support for its return exists.

Report from Curriculum Committee (Hans Gottgens):

1. PHYS 2130 pre/co-requisites were restated and it was noted that these were favorably voted on at the previous meeting. The changes involved requiring MATH 1830 as either a pre- or co-requisite to PHYS 2130.
2. ASTRO 2010 and 2020 pre-requisites modified to require sufficient mathematical background to help ensure success in the course. Students without that background will be encouraged to take ASTRO 1010 or sufficient math courses.
3. BIOL 6830 “Molecular and Cellular Biology” is a new course for the Master of Science Education program. This program is designed to provide high school teachers with an improved background for developing and teaching undergraduate level biology. The course will be developed for online, distance learning.
4. Motion was made to vote on changes (2) and (3), as (1) had already been voted on at the previous meeting. Items (2) and (3) were voted on and approved unanimously.

Report from Elections Committee (Sibylle Weck-Schwarz):

1. Ballot for vote on CNSM constitution changes, CCAP at-large members, and Graduate Council has been generated and should be distributed soon.
2. Reminder: March 19 is the voting deadline for Faculty Senate.

New Business:

1. The provost’s office has been asking instructors in CNSM to help develop general education course criteria. This is partially related to the upcoming Higher Learning Commission evaluation within the next two years. Issues will include improving retention as well as helping students in CNSM majors, other majors, and fulfilling general education requirements. Instructors have requested better demographic information to better tailor our ability to help these students.
2. There has been discussion about adjusting MATH courses, specifically the two required calculus courses for B.S. degrees in CNSM. Potential changes discussed include reducing the two-course sequence (7 credits) into a single course (5 credits). This change may reduce the complexity of course variations offered, however it would require CNSM to change the calculus requirements in its programs. These potential changes are only at the discussion level, and no plan has yet been proposed or implemented.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.