

## Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for November 25, 2014

Student Union 2591 3:30 – 4:30 PM

### Call to Order

- Roll Call – Secretary - Edith Kippenhan
- **Present:** Jim Anderson, Mike Cushing, Bruce Bamber, Jonathan Bossenbroek, Xiche Hu, Edith Kippenhan, John Plenefisch, Anthony Quinn, Friedhelm Schwarz, Kathy Shan, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Yanfa Yan
- **Absent:** Peter Andreana, Hans Gottgens, David Krantz, Denis White
- **Others Present:** Brian Ashburner, Jim Zubricky, Michelle Martinez

### Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2014 Meeting

The minutes for the meeting were presented to council via e-mail. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kathy Shan and seconded by Tony Quinn. The motion passed unanimously.

### Presentation on the Learning Center Facilities

by Michele Martinez, Executive Director, Academic Support Office of the Vice Provost

The Learning Center has set up a Faculty Advisory Board that is composed of content experts for the subjects most often tutored. Sibylle is the content expert for the math department. Physics was approached about it but no one was identified at the time.

They have also implemented the program of Liaison Tutors. These tutors are matched with the faculty coordinator for a course and share feedback with them on students' use of the tutoring center for that course. Tutors must have a 3.5 or higher in the class they are tutoring.

Institutional Research will track students to see if their grades go up because of the tutoring they received at the center.

20 iPads were acquired so tutors and SI leaders can use the same apps as instructors use in the classroom.

The center had more than 18,200 visits this past year. The Writing Center had more than 3000 visits. Graduate students can use the Writing Center for help as well.

It would be appreciated if instructors would include information about the Learning Center in their syllabi. It would also be appreciated if departments would forward the schedules for their respective Help Centers to Michele at the beginning of each semester.

### Curriculum Committee:

Gerard presented based on information in e-mail from Hans.

#### CHEM 1090

Course modification to change prerequisite to include completion of MATH 1200 with a grade of C or higher.

#### CHEM 1110

The course 1210 is being brought back but it will be renumbered to 1110 to conform to the numbering of the subsequent class CHEM 1120.

Results from a national standardized exam show the students in 1120 are not doing as well as they should so it is hoped the addition of 1110 will remedy this. The impact is expected to be approx. 100 students in the fall and 50 students in the spring.

College algebra was required for this course but nursing students are not required to take college algebra. The prerequisite is being changed from MATH 1320 to MATH 1200.

Motion to approve the changes to the CHEM courses as a package passed unanimously.

EEES 4160/6160

These new courses will be required for graduate students to get them ready for research.  
Motion to approve as a package passed unanimously.

MEDT 2010

Change the prerequisite and change the sequence so they take this class before entering their clinical year. The phrase "permission of instructor" was removed as this was carried over from the old core curriculum.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Information from Brian: The course for Differential Equations will be renumbered because the prerequisites don't match as of right now. A blanket modification will be used to change prerequisites from 3860 to the new number 2860. Physics is doing the same thing for some of their courses.

**Faculty Senate:**

There was only one meeting since the last NSM Council meeting as the other one that was scheduled was cancelled.

Most of the discussion was about the incubator and stock in Xunlight. Corp.

**Chairs Council:**

Nothing significant.

**University Council:**

The discussion was mostly about finances with the addition of Title IX issues and consequences. Provost Barrett reported the 5% tuition increase would not happen. Brian heard that it was state mandated. University Council is trying to dissuade them. It is assumed that an increase of 3% is being used for financial projections. Tuition provides 40-60% of the total budget, the rest is covered by subsidy (~20%) and fees.

(Aside: contract negotiations have gone to fact finding.)

**Graduate Council:**

Brian reported there was a special meeting of the graduate faculty to discuss the proposed *Diversity Certificate*. During the summer some curricular decisions were made because things needed to be done. Discussion on this will be continued.

Bill Messer brought up the issue of Export Control of items and knowledge and emphasized that this relates to people of embargoed countries while they are here in the US. Faculty should think twice about recruiting students from those countries.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm with a motion by Jim that was seconded by Sibylle.

Friedhelm asked about an update on changes due to retirement. Brian said there were 5 total for NSM, 2 in Physics and 3 in Math.

The Provost still has the hiring plan. There are potentially 234 retirees, 188 of which are in colleges that have not yet submitted hiring plans.