

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2015

Student Union 3016 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Call to Order

- Roll Call – Peter Andreana
- Presiding – Bruce Bamber
- **Present:** Anthony Quinn, Jim Anderson, Jonathan Bossenbroek, Mike Cushing, Xiche Hu, Edith Kippenhan, David Krantz, John Plenefisch, Kathy Shan, Don Stierman, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Denis White, Yanfa Yan, Hans Gottgens, Tony Quinn, Tim Mueser, Gerard Thompson,
- **Absent:** Friedhelm Schwarz
- **Others Present:** Jacques Amar

Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2015 Meeting

The minutes for the meeting were presented to council via e-mail. The motion passed unanimously.

New business

NSM college website has been languishing for the past two years. Need to gather 2 years of minutes and post them. Post updated rosters, from last year and this year. College website might need new additions. Council website needs to be kept current. Volunteer: none. Bruce will take care of this. Edith will help.

JD Smith was keeping the website up to date last.

Spring meetings will be rescheduled since they were scheduled on faculty senate day. Fall is set. No changes will be made to the fall schedule. The schedule will be added to the website, as well as the roster of committees.

Faculty Senate: Gerard, Sevilla, David and Tony

1st meeting – President was present at the first meeting and discussed enrollment; university council is gone (President's advisory council is the replacement); Associate Dean has been promoted to Vice Provost for Retention.

2nd meeting - Hole in budget; assumption about increased enrollment – 2% increase was a hole; enrollment in the college is up

Check to see if NSM is supposed to have a representative on the new council.

The priority for this year is aligning our general education courses with OTM approval, which is now required by the state. The rules have changed 2 years ago and we've been out of compliance.

Math – is in reasonably good shape.

The new rules specify that if we list a course in our general education curriculum, it must be OTM approved. OTM means that a student that takes intro to whatever at UT and then transfers to another state university they will be able to get credit for that course.

Kathy – not a lot of OTM math courses.

Extreme requirements for OTM approval for math courses. The natural sciences have guidelines of what an introductory course should look like and are relatively flexible. Need to meet the 70% rule.

Goal for this academic year is to get as many courses as possible approved for OTM that aren't currently. Following years will be to improve general education courses – the way they are presented.

New college will be dismantled.

The portal system is confusing. Which college are you and which college has responsibility.

2 announcement concerning grants/scholarships:

Kohler now has 2 application dates – March additional date added

Summer research grants awarded by the research council – haven't been increased in a very long time; old max was \$12000 to be awarded, now have a max of \$20,000; also more money available to award more grants. Members of the Research Council will be reviewing the applications by discipline.

Science and engineering are in one pool. Guidelines for applying for the grants contained on the research council website.

Discussion ensued about the summer research grants – who is receiving them; are people with grants in place being considered or not; encourage everyone to apply

Graduate Council:

1st meeting: New chair - Rebecca Schneider

Issues – 12 credit hour full time to 9 credit hour full time to get in line with the state; financial aid is a wrinkle in this; for some programs the curriculum is set up for more than 9 credit hours for the 1st semester; those who are taking 10 or 12 hours for 1st semester are in a bind and having to pay for the extra hours; Let Patsy Komuniecki know if there are problems.

Drop in FTE's with the new 9 full credit hour

The change was made because the state subsidy was getting reached too quickly. The state pays per credit hour.

Enrollment is down by 9%, actual headcount down by 5.93%; Mostly in business and education and nursing.

Discussion at last graduate council meeting on syllabus guidelines for graduate education; for HLC purposes – all courses should abide by the guidelines including thesis research, dissertation research and independent study.

Proposal for a contract for each individual student – quickly dismissed. Better model would be to have a template syllabus that sets out overall learning outcomes for any student, with a sliding scale built in to fit each student. No recommendation was made by the graduate council, just a discussion about the issue.

Chairs Meetings:

From the April 2015 Meeting – Brian Ashburner working on College Credit Plus – high school students getting college credit. It's a work in progress. Status unknown at this time since Brian moved to Provost's office. 60/40 UT students to high school students

Title 9 training came and went; new rounds of training will be conducted.

Higher Learning Commission visiting April 16, 2016 – stimulated a lot of reworking of syllabi. In the syllabus, the student learning outcome is the most important thing.

From the September 2015 Meeting –

Undergraduate majors in NSM up 5%; down 2.5% for FTE's

Graduate majors down 14 individual students which represents a 5% decrease; FTE's down to 70% of what they used to be attributed to the 12-9 credit hour full time shift

Retention (incoming freshmen) – Academic year 13/14 – 64.5%; 14/15 – 78.6%; Aiming for 80-85%;

The overall university retention rate is about 70%; the expectation is that it will get to 80%

Retention is a priority of the President to be achieved by improved admissions standards and better success coaching.

President mentioned something from the Dean's Council about rumors of college reorganizations; NSM is being looked at.

Miscellaneous Items from Chairs Meetings:

URAF funding - supposed to be quite a bit supplemented; there may be new internal grant opportunities

Graduate health insurance – those on grants need to pay their insurance up front and then get reimbursed; Dean Bjorkmann is pushing back against this because many can't afford to pay up front since they don't get their first paycheck until October/November. There is awareness and it's being worked on. Student health insurance went up 40%.

Open Discussion on Objectives and Priorities:

Dean Bjorkmann wants to meet and talk about Tenure and Promotion Guidelines – Oct 20th

Revise the guidelines for NSM by the end of the semester. Voting to ratify what the Dean's office presents.

Procedurally on how to proceed to revise the guidelines – suggestion made to have 1 tenured track person per department to review the guidelines on tenure and promotions and take a look at any individual departments guidelines and use that as a template to come up with a document of our own. Submit to the council to make any changes and also send to the departments for general faculty input and review before putting together the final document to give to the Dean. Motion made for the executive committee to be the committee responsible for this. The motion was seconded. Take old document and make into something that is easier to use and interpret. Emphasis on teaching and service.

Edith's suggestion for the committee was brought up - learning objectives and preferred activities for orientation courses; NSM orientation should be a place to give students advice on things like where to find help, what to do if they don't have the book and can't afford it, etc.

One vacancy for Faculty Senate; 2 ways to replace someone, not sure what this vacancy falls under. Next person down in election is put in as substitute. College election for a long term position. Looking into how the vacancy will be filled with a substitute until the next election.

Meeting adjourned @ 4:57pm.