

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council Meeting Minutes, Sept. 21st, 2021

1. Call to Order: John Bellizzi, presiding
2. Roll Call (Bellizzi)
Present: Krishnamurthi, Bamber, Harmych, Bellizzi, Mock, Li, Dwyer, Krantz, Martin-Hayden, Liu, Anderson, Sonutoglu, Fisher, Ray, Visbal, Medling, and student representatives McKenzie Arquette (Biology) and Tanner Schultz (Biology)
Ex-officio members: Ashburner, Plenefisch, and Dean Seigar
3. Minutes of 4/20/21 were sent around with the agenda. No corrections or objection. Minutes approved by unanimous consent, i.e., no no-vote in virtual meeting chat box.

Motion: move Dean Marc Seigar's comments to top of the agenda, Krantz. Dwyer seconded the motion. No discussion or objection. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Marc Seigar, Comments from the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics on the vision for the College:

- The Dean will focus on the three areas of research excellence and possibly add a fourth, Data Science. We should limit duplicate courses and look at future programs of opportunity.
- NSM freshman enrolment 288 (new incoming cohort), Retention 80.1%, continuing student number down due to graduation, -4% overall (but for a good reason). Graduate numbers up 1.6% for NSM (+4 students), down 3.9% for University (45 students). We are down less than other colleges and have a better retention rate. What are we doing well? (Ashburner) Equity Champions probably helps retention. NSM first-year students had at least one Equity Champions course. Equity Champions started off with 13 courses (NSM and Engineering), up to 27, and is now 57 courses, opened up to all colleges.
- Discussion from the Floor: Covid concerns with students absent from face-to-face courses. Maybe this is actually a retention problem related to Covid. How can we improve retention? Having community helps retain students, e.g., interaction with other students help students feel more included in the university community. Adam Hintz is the "Covid Champion" in Student Services, responsible to make sure that students don't fall through the cracks. Send the names of students of concern to Adam. Students and faculty should contact Student Affairs. We need a protocol for what we should do with international students. Sara Clark is the point of contact for International studies and programs. Staff's hours have been cut back. The money is not available currently. The staff will be gradually returned to full-time.

4. Unfinished Business

- a. **Secretary Nominations:** Daryl Dwyer nominated Jamie Martin-Hayden. With no other nominees for secretary, vote for Jamie Martin-Hayden (in the chat screen). James Martin-Hayden is elected Secretary of NSM Council for AY 21-22
- b. **Vice-Chair Nominations** (Also Chair Elect from Executive Committee and not from Chemistry/Biochemistry or Biological Sciences). John Bellizzi nominated Daryl Dwyer. With no other nominees for Vice-Chair, vote for Daryl Dwyer (in the chat screen). Daryl Dwyer is elected Vice-Chair

5. University Reports

- a. **Faculty Senate**, John Bellizzi will forward David Krantz's notes outlining the many topics covered. Highlights relevant to NSM Council, David Krantz: executive committee overview from Terry Bigioni, discussions of Covid policies, and faculty discussion on Administration policies. Higher Learning Commission will visit UT Nov. 8 and 9. HLC summary documents are ready to go with an executive summary available to our faculty. RCM model transition this Fall, 2022-23 budget year begins mid-summer. Covid and Flu vaccination policies were discussed. Loss of enrolment has budget implications. Information relating to the financial situation of the University was presented. There are discrepancies in reports of a deficit when there was actually a surplus. We need a more direct line of communication between Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Administration. Provost Bjorkman gave an update on mandatory attendance tracking and the Covid vaccine mandate. Upload your vaccination status to the UT web site. Ohio Faculty Council: representatives from the 14 state universities attended. There is an Ohio House bill concerning divisive concepts in grade school and higher ed., e.g., critical race theory. You should take the recordings in Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and convert them to Echo 360 which is considerably less expensive for long-term storage. Program assessment reports are due Oct. 15. Currently, communications between Faculty Senate and the Administration takes the form of informing rather than involving Faculty Senate. Regarding the mix-up in reporting attendance tracking and the blowback from the students, it was a system failure and the Administration sincerely apologizes. Movement to year-around registration, spring 22 for AY 22-23. NSM Council will need to approve well before Feb 15, e.g., December. Get going on course and program modifications started immediately. Not all course modifications are involved. Only those, like course modifications and prereques., that impact scheduling. Administration looking at enrolment management, things that we as faculty can do in our classes. Use Gayle Heer as your point of contact for Enrolment Management.
- b. **Graduate Council**, Brian Ashburner: Provost Bjorkman was present at the first meeting to answer questions and no business was conducted.
- Amy Thompson, was present at Grad. Council's second meeting. Amy is taking a proactive approach to getting the office functioning the way it should. At a Strategic Enrollment Committee meeting, Chaired by David Meredith and Co-Chair Denise Bartell, Brian was asked to be part of a new committee: Graduate Enrolment, Growth and Student Success. This new committee will be led by Amy Thompson and Denise Bartell and will involve representatives from Graduate Council, each college, Enrollment Management, and the Provost's Office.
 - Amy Thompson has met with Huron and Finance to get the graduate school budget under control. NSM has lost funding from COGS (\$1.5M) even though we are doing well with enrolment and graduate students. Amy Thompson is look into international recruiting.
 - We have lost three grants coordinators so RSP is down to one grants coordinator. Info Ed. grants management package roll out will be delayed. The University and College look good, up 15.6% to \$63M. As a college up to over \$24M NSM, the top

college in terms of money. There was a vote to support resolution out of Faculty Senate to approve the vaccine mandate. Brian assumed it passed.

- Discussion: Why did we lose the \$1.5M from GOGS? It is due to Covid related issues. Does the shadow budget help? We don't have a shadow budget yet. People lost from grants office, why are we not trying to retain those people? We can't afford to compete with the salaries offered. How does the shift of tuition waivers to grants factor into the loss of funds from GOCS? It is only when you request an RA line in a grant above \$100K per year. If you bring in an international student, we still need an out-of-state budget to cover those students.

6. College Reports

a. NSM College Leadership Meetings (Bellizzi, Ashburner, and Plenefisch):

- A Chair's meeting was held at the beginning of Sept. discussing donor engagement procedures with emphases on crowd funding and specialized initiatives.
- Remarks System will replace Scantron but IT doesn't like it. Scantron is still here until spring.
- Three fall preview days Oct. 1, Nov. 2 and Nov. 13, Fall Break 14-15, Rocket Family Weekend Oct. 22-24. Mini on campus recruiting event is not yet structured and not clear that individual departments will be involved.
- Marc Seigar is interested in putting together an external advisory board for NSM. Alumnae would be great but also people who are now in industry positions who know what the industry is looking for in our students. They could give insight as to how our program can be tweaked. If you know of people, forward them to John Plenefisch. Having advisory board members geographically nearby is not essential but sometimes meeting in person is beneficial.

7. Standing Committees Reports: None currently

8. New Business, John Bellizzi, Chair – Executive Report:

- The new version of the NSM Council bylaws from the April meeting are now on the website. The rest of the NSM Council website has now been updated with committee members.
- An Ad-hoc committee on workload guidelines met last year. The committee collected information for the college about how workloads are currently being assigned. The plan is to reconstitute the ad-hoc committee and discuss modifications to the document. It is important the faculty have a say in it so that workloads are not established by fiat.
- John Bellizzi would like to use NSM Council to coordinate communication on some of the issues concerning Covid policies and procedures. If there are concerns or issues you come across, bring them to the Chair or the Executive Committee during the course of the semester. NSM Council could bring information together, compare notes, answer questions and communicate with the Administration.
- First meeting John Bellizzi had with incoming Dean Seagar to discuss the responsibilities of NSM Council. We review policies and endorse them or don't endorse them, disseminate information from departments on up and from the Administration on down, monitoring and reviewing curriculum changes. Even though, in the Constitution,

we are technically the legislative body of the college, we don't create policy. We should not be afraid that if there are issues in your department we should discuss them.

- We have two student representatives intended to give voice to students. Should graduate students be represented as well? Welcome student representatives. You can bring issues that you feel are important to the Council. That will be more efficient than us trying to figure out relevant issues. We could put your items on the agenda for the next meeting. Issues may include experiences from your classes, department, and research. For example, diversity and inclusion issues.
- John Bellizzi has invited Sylvia Goicoechea, Chair of the NSM Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, to one of our meetings later this fall to talk about what the Committee is working on. We as faculty are out of our comfort zone having to move classes on line. We have changed how we deliver our material, how we interact with students, and how we deal with academic dishonesty.

9. Items from the Floor.

- What are we doing about recruitment? NSM should take a look at recruitment. David Meredith has been working on recruitment so we should have him come talk to NSM Council.
- Will there be a cap on parking rates? The company responsible for parking is going to try to make a profit which will impact us and the students. The \$56.40 price is still available but it is restricted to two lots.

Motion to adjourn with a second, meeting adjourned 4:58