

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council Meeting  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm via WebEx

1. Call to Order, Bellizzi

Roll Call by attendee list from WebEx

Jim Anderson, Brian Ashburner, Bruce Bamber, John Bellizzi, Daryl Dwyer, Kathy Fisher, Sally Harmych, David Krantz, Malathi Krishnamurthy, Rong Liu, James Martin-Hayden, Anne Medling, Kristi Mock, John Plenefisch, Aniruddha Ray, Sonmez Sahutoglu, Elijah Visbal, Wei Li, student representatives McKenzie Arquette and Tanner Schultz, and Dean Marc Seigar

2. Approval of Minutes from 11/15/21 distributed by email, no corrections. With no objections, approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

3. Old Business

- a. College-level NSM Budget Advisory Committee, Dean Marc Seigar: The committee is being populated. Two departments have not submitted names. This committee will serve an advisory role to Dean and Associate Dean with representation from each NSM department including either chairs or faculty, or both. There will be representation from Research Council as well as technical representation. Two representatives from Environmental Sciences were put forward: Scott Heckathorn and Tim Fisher. Four representatives from Biological Sciences were put forward: Tomer Avidor-Reiss, Heather Conti, Scott Leisner, and Kathy McCoy. Dean Seigar now has representatives from all the NSM departments. The committee will meet every other week with the goal of budget transparency. This will be the main method of getting the word out about budgetary considerations. There are no details on the involvement of Graduate Council. The intent was to have representation from NSM departments and to include Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate expressed their intent to institute a budget committee within Faculty Senate with representation from each college.
- b. College Budget, Dean Seigar: The budget will have a few turbulent years. It will be 2 or 3 years before we are back to normal. They are expecting a decline in enrolment, but enrolment is significantly up from the last couple of years.

4. Standing Committee Reports

a. Curriculum Committee, Bamber:

- Note, John Bellizzi: NSM Council will need to have a special meeting of the Curriculum Committee to consider the late course and program modifications including: new Environmental Science graduate degree programs with a new EEES course, and changes to Oceanography.
- Course modifications
  - CHEM4560: Clean up prereqs.
  - CHEM4880: Tailor degree plan more toward biochemistry BS program. Including Adv. Lab. III as an alternative to CHEM3/4910.

- EEES2760 prereq: Allow EEES2100 as another option for the prereq. (other than the existing prereq. EEES2150). This is a methods course at the undergrad level that folds ecology students in with geology students. We were also trying to get rid of the minimum grade of D- and upgrade it to C- but have not yet included that modification. One prereq., EEES2150, is a foundational course in ecology. The other EEES2100 is the foundational course for the earth science students. If Bruce gets an email from Jon Bossenbroek, Env. Sci. Chair, that the faculty are in agreement, the Curriculum Committee will include that in the modification and the vote will include the minimum prereq. grade of C-.

**Motion** from the Curriculum Committee so vote is called and no second is necessary: Approve the three course modifications outlined by the committee for CHEM4560, CHEM4880, and EEES2760 (with a confirmation from DES for C- prereq. grade minimum): 15 yes, 0 no, motion from the Curriculum Committee passes.

Last curriculum matter: Modify Honors credits to include interdisciplinary programs such as Data Science. What are the honors requirements? The policy currently states “completion of departmental Honors. The proposal is to add “or interdisciplinary program specified requirements”. Bruce presented the text of the reworded honors requirements. Suggested edits to Proposed Honors requirements for Data Science: Add “must be met, including” to the first sentence, add credit hours (add hours to credit), coursework (one word); and other corrections were suggested.

**Motion** from the Curriculum Committee so vote is called, no second is necessary, to amend Honors requirements for Data Science and BIOL Honors as discussed. 14 yes, 0 no, motion from the Curriculum Committee passes.

## 5. University reports, available on NSM site

a. Faculty Senate, Krantz: Move curriculum matters up to 4 on the agenda, no objection. There are concerns that individual Deans would make budgetary considerations differently and there is an attempt have a unified approach. Locally we see the degree programs one way and Ohio Higher Ed. might look at things differently. Enrolment: we are slowly recovering from COVID declines. Strategic planning is happening and there is an earnest request that faculty participate. Now two parking decks have been demolished. Students are not happy with the changes and the privatization of parking. Many of us are tired of teaching online. The university will not be engaging in external sources to provide online courses. The undergraduate program in Biology, Bioinformatics, has been approved. Economics certificates and minors have been approved. Some of those modifications relate to our programs, e.g., Environmental Economics. Five courses have all been approved in Biol. Sci. for Neuroscience. Everything that came through NSM Council has made it through Faculty Senate. These need to be moved on by mid-February. Identify students who you know did not drop out for academic reasons. Equity Champions is effective at retaining students. The last hour of the Faculty Senate spent on discussing Board of Trustee (BoT) amendments to the Faculty Senate constitution. A compromise

was proposed and voted on by Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate will accept the BoT wording, but they inserted that Faculty Senate will also evaluate administration officials when they decide it is necessary. College of nursing has a substantial mental health component. Michigan and Ohio COVID cases are skyrocketing. UT is experiencing a surge in COVID cases. Academic regulation has been revised with a different designation for Honors. There will be separate GPA calculations: Overall higher ed. GPA and then a UT GPA. This will give credit to students who were persistent in pulling their academic performance up after a rough start. John B. will forward David K.'s written notes regarding the Faculty Senate proceedings.

- b. Graduate Council, Ashburner: The Nov. meeting was cancelled. The Chair gave an update at today's meeting but reported nothing of consequence. Email from Provost: Sandra Robison was nominated by student Equity Champions as an outstanding faculty for student success and she will be entered into the pool of MAC outstanding faculty for student success. She has taken a sincere interest in student success.

#### 6. College Reports.

- a. NSM College Leadership Meeting (John Bellizzi), regarding a chairs' meeting. Diversity and inclusion statements will be required for online listings of openings. CIM prompting for curriculum maps for newly approved courses. Ohio Transfer Module is now called Ohio Transfer 36 and courses will need to be reapproved for the system. This approval will be a four-year cycle starting with courses that were approved over 8 years ago. Jennifer Blue will visit on January 14 on STEMM education research. The meeting is open to NSM and Engineering (probably in WO 1201)

Next scheduled meeting will be Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. We need to have a special meeting for evaluating the rest of the curriculum proposals the week of Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. We will need a quorum at that meeting. John will send out a notice calling that special meeting. We will still have the normal scheduled meeting.

- 7. Adjournment: Bruce made the motion and Jamie seconded. Meeting adjourned, 5:00.