

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council

Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2013

Student Union 2591 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Call to Order

- Roll Call – Secretary - Edith Kippenhan
- **Present:** Jim Anderson, Peter Andreana, Bruce Bamber, John Bellizzi, Don Stierman, Mike Cushing, Hans Gottgens, Xiche Hu, Edith Kippenhan, David Krantz, John Plenefisch, Nick Podraza, Tony Quinn, Friedhelm Schwarz, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz
- **Absent:** JD Smith (excused)
- **Others Present:** Mark Mason

Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2013 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes was seconded and passed unanimously.

Reports from Committees:

○ Curriculum

Attempt to vote on course proposals electronically failed due to lack of replies so they will be voted on now in the meeting. All proposals were approved by a majority vote of the Curriculum Committee.

1. Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Green Chemistry and Engineering
This includes the approval of four new courses (CHEM 6200/8200 and CHEM 6210/8210). Tony sent the package of documents to everyone on council via e-mail.

Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

2. MEDT 4010 – course modification

This is currently Intro to Medical Technology and is offered during the Summer term. The thought is to move the course from the clinical year to a pre-clinical year in the hopes of attracting students to the course. This requires the changing of pre-requisites and changing the number to 2010 instead of the current 4010. Ultimately it is hoped that this will become a TAG course. BGSU has a similar course already.

Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

3. BIOL 3910 – new course proposal, Research Project Laboratory

The lab will be tied to an actual research project that is funded by a grant, but it will be more guided than traditional undergraduate and structured more like a lab course. BIOL 4910 already exists, but its number is too high for such a guided course. This course would have a WAC component to train students how to write a research grant proposal, with a presentation and progress report due at the end of the semester.

The course would be open to other faculty members. It is designed for a group of students to work on one project. The prerequisites are limited. The enrollment cap would probably be 15, it is currently 5 or 6. The course is offered every semester. There would be regular class meetings to discuss topics, lab times would be scheduled each week with some additional open lab time as needed. There would be different section numbers for other faculty/grants/projects if needed.

Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

- **Faculty Senate**

There was a 45 minute discussion about the core courses.

Assessment will expand and examine general education, introductory science and other similar courses (OH TAGs, Transfer Module, Distributive Requirements, etc.). New label is being sought to replace general education courses.

The core curriculum is based on competencies, which are not currently recognized by the state. The motion is stuck in OBOR.

Bottom line – more to come.

Other topic of discussion was the offer of 2 yr. programs.

The AA in General Science exists, it would come back out of the files. The rationale is that the state has changed its subsidy formula to weigh the earned degree higher than courses passed.

We lose 30-35% of our students between the freshmen and sophomore year, another 20-25% are lost each year forward to graduation.

The problem is the AA is generally general education and distributive requirement courses.

The funding policy is still unclear.

Would the portal college help retention?

The portal college can't grant degrees. It is unknown how it would be handled if the student dropped from the portal college but not from NSM.

OSU has an exploratory program.

3rd topic: capital projects to be funded from UT reserves

BOT approved \$13 million to be used for capital projects. Most of these are on HSC for facilities' upgrades. There is a plan to build a new dorm where Dowd-Nash was, but it will be run and managed by a 3rd party to reduce UT's financial risk.

Carter is due to be torn down but the date is unknown.

- **Chair's Meeting**

Based on JD's notes:

The \$18 million deficit remaining from last year was discussed.

College Credit Plus for lower tuition dollars is coming (meant to replace AP, PSO and Dual-Enrollment with one program). UT needs faculty to develop courses over the summer for this program.

Careful (from David): once you sign contract, it is then UT's course, not yours. This means it can be offered by "others" on various platforms.

Affordable Health Care Act consequence: part-timers with > 30 hrs. must have benefits, so UT will be lowering hours to ≤ 29 to avoid paying benefits. Probably not so important since part-timers didn't have benefits anyhow and there aren't any part-timers any more.

- **University Council**

Gerard attended.

A rental bike program will be implemented campus-wide next semester. (Paid for by the Green Fund?)

David reported that the railroad segment that runs to HSC will be converted to a bike trail.

There is still a question about the providence of the University Council. Is it strictly advisory?
What if there is a minority report? Will that be forwarded to the BOT?

Update on Constitutional Changes

John Bellizzi

He removed some of the past changes and kept those that aligned with the CAB. The draft has been forwarded to JD. Needs vote by faculty in order to be completed.

New Business

Edith will be out for the remainder of the semester. Jim will take minutes in her place.

Announcements

No Announcements

CBA Updates:

Faculty member's pay will be docked if a class is cancelled due to low enrollment numbers.

Summer term to be included in contract. Example: faculty member would teach spring and summer but have fall term off. This presents problems with STRS since summer is part of a different academic year, which would result in a different count of "fulltime" years. It is suggested that faculty would be required to do all of their other duties, advising, etc. during the "off term", basically without pay.

Merit pay for the department would be based on compliance with registrar's office, such as submitting final grades on time, submitting mid-term grades, etc.

The question was asked if it is true that \$3 million is being removed from the TA budget and being given to UTMC? Would this be coming from the Graduate School budget?

No answer was given.

Adjournment at 4:34 pm.