

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council Meeting Minutes
12 November, 2019 in SU2579 3:30-5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

- Presiding: Qin Shao
- Present: Alessandro Arsie, John Bellizzi, Bruce Bamber, Terry Bigioni, Kathy Fisher (secretary fall semester), Sally Harymch, David Krantz, Malathi Krishnamurthy, Tom Megeath, Kristi Mock, Song Qian, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, and Kathy Shan
- Student Representatives: Ammar Adil, Dani Villarreal
- Others: Brian Ashburner
- Excused: Daryl Dwyer, Michael Heben

1. Approval of Minutes

- September minutes – change Daryl Dwyer from absent to excused
- October minutes – changed Kathy Fisher, Terry Bigioni and Malathi Krishnamurthy from absent to excused. Approved with these changes.

2. University Reports and Proposals

Faculty Senate (Sally Harymch)

October 22 meeting:

- Meeting was supposed to have a first reading of the bylaws, but senate voted to waive this.
- Provost report from Karen Bjorkman
 - Donations of \$859,990 received on giving Tuesday
 - Goal of 90% students registered by December 2, faculty asked to remind students to register
- Dean of Libraries report
 - New faculty collaborative space on 2nd floor of library next to Starbucks
 - Looking to find faculty willing to hold office hours in library
- Student Affairs Report from Flapp Cockerell
 - Draft of Syllabus well-being statement discussed (to direct students where to go with food insecurity, home stability issues)
 - Planning to hold clothing drive to collect clothing for students
 - Food pantry on campus and have a new food pantry on the health science campus

Nov 5 meeting:

- Provost report from Karen Bjorkman
 - Good attendance at the Graduate professional fair
 - Student financial aid office has a new initiative called “Rocket Aid” for emergency monetary aid for students – form available on website, faculty can also fill out a form for students

- New professional advising office open
- Endorsed 3 policies (one was a GPA recalculation policy)
- Further discussion of reading of bylaws

Graduate Council (Brian Ashburner)

- Megan Cunningham talking about the new branding and marketing, wants stories on anything good that's happening here
- Llew Gibbons taken over as new Research Integrity Officer,
 - need to make sure we're in compliance with responsible conduct of Research with faculty and students, and all training is complete
- Deadline for new course proposals / modifications to Graduate Council is March 17 2020 for next year's catalog
- Cindee Gruden discussed new policy on GRE scores, no longer required by COGS
 - Discussed department options for eliminating GRE or keeping it
- Discussion of whether need a formal probation / dismissal process at graduate level (already have one for undergraduate level)
 - Concern that students can be dismissed from one program but enter another

4. College Reports and Proposals

Chair's Meetings (August and September) (Qin Shao)

- Curriculum tracking system retiring in December
 - Brian: courses in system currently will need to be resubmitted and any other courses need to be in the system by January 31 for approval in time for fall
- Online Course Evaluations not mandatory for fall, mandatory for spring
 - How are teaching assistant / instructors distinguished?
 - Common questions evaluate course, teaching questions may be added by department
- New centralized printer system
 - Brian: concerns about what will happen to old printers; the new printer system is being implemented but not certain when
- Our college still needs two faculty to marshal Dec. 14 at commencement

5. Council Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee (John Bellizzi)

- B.S. in General studies – proposal to reduce total number of credit hours required from 124 to 120 (students have sufficient room to still complete all specific requirements)
 - Discussion: Concerns raised about inclusion of social science and humanities as possible concentrations, reference to "Course work in a single department" and whether that has to be a department in our college, is this an acceptable course level, what is the value of this degree for students?
 - Conclusion: Brian will take back to John P for further discussion

- Voted only on the proposal to reduce from 124 credit hours to 120: 13 in favor, 1 abstained.
- Astronomy 2020 (Stars, Galaxies and the Universe): Modification to add a base level math prerequisite
 - Discussion: Concerns raised about whether the math prerequisite should be strengthened, since only requires a very low-level class, or a D- in a completed class.
 - Voted to table discussion and send back to Physics and Astronomy for possible revision of prerequisite requirement
- Math 2640 (Statistics for Applied Science): Seeking approval as a Core Mathematics course, since equivalent content to Math 2600 which is a Core math course.
 - Voted: all in favor
- Phd in Physics: Program modification
 - Proposal: Change 9 hours of required courses to optional, increase dissertation research hours from 30 - 48 to 30 - 60, add new course PHYS 8040 Professional Development Seminar
 - Voted: all in favor
- PHYS 8040 (Professional Development Seminar) new course proposal: hasn't been formally submitted yet, but presented for feedback from council
 - Tom: Essential information grad students should know - how to write papers, what software to use to write papers, what the journals are, etc.
 - Voted to endorse this course for approval: all in favor

Elections (Sibylle Weck-Schwarz)

- Nothing to report
- CCAP and Grad council elections are coming up, if any other votes / elections needed, let Sibylle know

6. Unfinished Business

CCAP by-law Revision (David)

- NSM committee (Qin, Sally, Kathy S and David) met with Don Wedding (representing UT-AAUP) to determine if any conflicts with the CBA
- Section 1: no conflicts (if a person can't serve on CCAP they can't vote, so no conflict)
- Section 2: no conflicts (point of information: at beginning of having an NSM council, we set up a rotation so would constantly have new members coming in and would retain continuity from year to year)
- Revision suggestion: "Persons on sabbatical may serve on CCAP if they are available the semester or semesters of their sabbatical."

- Don advised not to try to distinguish between different categories of Leave of Absences (could be personal or medical or administrative leave)
- No need to get rid of the reference to “Superannuates”, although no one presently qualifies for this category, it could be used in the future.
- Section 3 intent: any one person can only vote one time in the entire process.
 - Endowed chairs and Directors are currently excluded from service / voting on CCAP (since not a part of the CBA)
 - Discussed whether this makes sense noting that many directors serve as faculty members and are not overseeing any faculty, the term “director” is used differently across the university, some directors are a part of the CBA and others are not, and some are spending a small percentage of time on director duties. Decided to postpone further discussion to future time.
- Sections 4, 5, and 6, no conflict with CBA
- Sibylle: Section 6 (the election): two seats for “at large” representation (usually one open each election) but wording mentions “up to 2 names may be voted for” even though there is usually just one person. (this is carry-over from the College of Arts and Sciences Bylaws), for all other elections allowed to only vote up to the number of vacancies.
- Revision suggestion: at end insert “If there are 2 vacancies to fill, then up to 2 names may be voted for.”
- John B: on first page says “If a person can’t serve on CCAP, they can’t vote” which contradicts section 4.
- Revision suggestion: section 4 should have added “...who are members of the bargaining unit”
- Use of term “Member” and how it is referenced may have some inconsistency
- Decided to table discussion pending further research

Meeting adjourned 5:05.

Informational Announcement following adjournment (Brian)

- Driving Change Grant
 - \$500,000 per year for 5 years to make transformational changes to STEM education with a focus on what we can do for students in underrepresented minorities
 - Very competitive: 255 institutions eligible, 6 will be given out
 - Karen Bjorkman is asking us to look closely at this and decide whether we wish to participate, letter of intent due in February, then invited to submit full proposal
 - Includes scholarships for well qualified students
 - Brian will send out details for our consideration

BY-LAWS OF THE COLLEGE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL FOR THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Section 1. Number of Positions and Divisions

Each Department in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics will have one position on CCAP to be filled by an eligible member of that Department, elected for office of 'member of CCAP' by the eligible voters of the Department in accordance with Departmental rules. Two additional at-large positions on CCAP are filled by eligible members of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and are elected by faculty of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics who are eligible to vote for the office of member of CCAP. Both at-large members have to hold the rank of full professor and cannot be from the same department.

Section 2. Term of Office

The term of office of members of the Natural Sciences and Mathematics College Committee on Academic Personnel (CCAP) is two years. The terms of the individual members will be staggered such that in any year a minimum of three and a maximum of four terms expire. The term of one at-large member will expire each year. A member cannot serve two consecutive terms. The terms of expiration for the founding members of the departmental seats for 2011-2012 CCAP shall be: Mathematics (2012), Physics and Astronomy (2013), Chemistry (2012), Environmental Sciences (2013), Biological Sciences (2012). If two at-large members are elected in the same year, the term of the member who received the greater number of votes will be two years and the member who received the lesser number of votes will be one year. If both elected members received the same number of votes, the Elections Committee will randomly assign the one and two year terms lengths of the two newly elected at-large members.

Section 3. Eligibility for Election to CCAP

Except as noted below, all full-time tenured members of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics are eligible to serve on CCAP. However, faculty members whose positions are half-time or more in administrative duties, departmental chairs, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics member of the following year's University Committee on Academic Personnel and faculty who are superannuate or on a leave of absence are not eligible to serve on CCAP. All members of the department to which the continuing at large member belongs are ineligible for election to the office of at-large member of CCAP.

Section 4. Eligibility to Vote

All full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics shall be eligible to vote in the nomination and election balloting for the at-large offices of member of CCAP.

Section 5. Nominations for At-Large members of CCAP

Nomination ballots will list all faculty with a rank of full professor of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics eligible for election to CCAP, and up to five names may be selected by each eligible voter. Each year five persons shall be nominated for election as a result of the nomination balloting. No more than two nominees can be from the same department.

Section 6. Election of At-Large members of CCAP

Election ballots shall list the five nominees, and up to two names may be voted for by each eligible voter. Each year one person shall be elected to serve as at-large member of CCAP. If both positions are unfilled, then two persons shall be elected subject to the limitations of Sections 2 and 3.