

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council  
Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2012  
Nik Podraza reporting**

Meeting Called to Order at 3:35 PM by Chair Joe Schmidt.

Roll Call by (Secretary) Nik Podraza

**Present:** John Plenefisch, Anthony Quinn, Joseph Schmidt, John Bellizzi, Don Ronning, David Krantz, Hans Gottgens, J. D. Smith, Randy Ellingson, Nik Podraza, Denis White, Friedhelm Schwarz, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Edith Kippenhan (for Sally Harmych), Don White

**Absent:** Fan Dong, Jon Bossenbroek

Minutes from December 13, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Notes from January Chair's Meeting: David Krantz**

1. IT support has been segregated into support for instruction and faculty / research. Ryan Hoffer is the new IT person for CNSM. Policy exists to replace computers older than 5 years with new ones (bought on discount), although adding software programs must be done by arrangement.
2. Site licenses for software such as Mathematica and MatLab were discussed, and it was mentioned that expanded site licenses are really not necessary as current usage tracking has not indicated that those already in place are used to capacity.
3. Faculty travel funds are still available from CNSM, limited to \$500 per person. This opportunity has not been heavily utilized to date.
4. The Midwest Graduate Research Symposium will be held on March 24, 2012 at UT. Dean Bjorkman is encouraging faculty to participate as judges and have graduate students attend and present their research. see <http://www.utoledogsa.com/information> for student and judge's registration
5. Report from Ben Pryor and Laura Kinner about OhioLink and electronic journals. A \$4.5 million shortfall statewide is expected, models are being evaluated as to not lose services. UT Library tracks access and usage, so faculty members should incorporate their use within student courses.
6. Report from the Associate Dean's meeting—the master syllabus on file with the state is expected to be useful in a new “clearing house” system for facilitating easier transfer credit among participating colleges and universities.
7. Student Retention: Predictive models of retention are being developed, but there are some alarming rates. 65% retention from freshman to sophomore year for all students, 11% graduation rate for African American males (the freshman to sophomore rate is also low in this group).
8. Proposal will be brought before the faculty senate that IN and PR grades must be completed within 6 weeks of the next semester (otherwise they will turn into F's). Issues were raised that this is not ideal, specifically for laboratory courses meeting in ONLY spring or fall semesters and that it may result in increased medical

withdrawals. There would still be procedures in place for extensions beyond the 6 week period; however, they would require some sort of petition.

**Update on University Core: David Krantz**

1. Deadline for the next phase of core curriculum course paperwork is the beginning of March.
2. Guidelines for revising courses and descriptions to account for new college and institutional policies (assessment) will be provided.

**Endorsement of Revised WAC Charter: David Krantz**

1. WAC is moving beyond old College of Arts and Sciences level to the University level. The charter has been adapted to the university level.
2. *Dave motioned that we endorse this charter, the motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. The vote was unanimously approved.*

**CNSM Curriculum Committee: Anthony Quinn**

1. Every department has brought forth program changes to come into compliance with the new college core; however, details from all departments have not yet been provided. The BA currently requires 34 hours of courses in the major and 58 hours of major and related courses. The BS requires 34 hours in the major and 64 hours of major and related courses. The credit hours reported indicate that all programs are in compliance.
2. Each department will have to submit program revision forms (available online, curriculum committee members have it)—the curriculum committee will contact the chairs directly. It was recommended that Dean Bjorkman email Department Chairs that they need to have all their changes filed so that the council can approve.
3. No feedback has yet to be received from Physics and Astronomy. Anthony Quinn will contact the Department Chair and curriculum committee directly.
4. The changes to the BS and BA degree requirements in Geology (EEES) were presented. No discussion was necessary for the BS in Geology. The BA in Geology requires two small changes: the required Math course credits (currently at 4) should be altered to read “4-6” (to reflect the credits of the required courses listed); and the total number of other credit hours outside the major should likely be readjusted to read “18-20” instead of “18.” *A vote was taken on accepting these changes in the BA and BS requirements for Geology. The vote was unanimously approved.*
5. The changes to the BA degree requirements in Chemistry and Biochemistry (Chem.) were presented. For the BA in Chemistry, majors must select 3 additional optional courses from a newly developed list. The prerequisites for the course on this list need to be reviewed. For the BA in Biochemistry, majors must take additional upper level courses and related courses from an approved list. *A vote was taken on accepting these changes in the BA requirements for Chemistry and Biochemistry. The vote was unanimously approved.*

**Discussion of New Workload Policy: J.D. Smith**

1. Withheld until the February meeting.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Announcements**

1. David Krantz will be emailing a new article (described as being somewhat objective) in *Academe* on university workload policies.
2. Saturday Morning Science flyers will be forthcoming, so please feel free to request them and advertise (co-organized by Schmidt and Bellizzi).
3. Choose Ohio First Scholarships are available for incoming Ohio-native graduate students interested in the new professional MS in Photovoltaics program.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.