

**Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council
Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2012
Nik Podraza reporting**

Meeting Called to Order at 3:33 PM by Chair Joe Schmidt.

Roll Call by (Secretary) Nik Podraza

Present: Fan Dong, John Plenefisch, Anthony Quinn, Joseph Schmidt, John Bellizzi, Don Ronning, David Krantz, Jon Bossenbroek, Hans Gottgens, J. D. Smith, Nik Podraza, Denis White, Friedhelm Schwarz, Gerard Thompson, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Don White

Absent: Randy Ellingson, Sally Harmych

Minutes from February 21, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Visit by Dean Karen Bjorkman

Dean's Address: Dean Bjorkman provided some remarks regarding the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM) and its status within the university. Some points were:

1. She is generally happy about the curriculum changes, the CNSM council's work, and the efforts within CNSM overall. Her presentations to the Board of Trustees and the senior leadership of the university have received positive feedback.
2. She noted that we are in the middle of the budget process and that the process will be different compared to previous years. This process started by asking for a business plan for each college, in which Dean Bjorkman laid out the mission statement and goals of CNSM, areas of improvement, information on interdisciplinary programs, etc. It was reported that the number of CNSM majors have been growing by ~5-10% per year for the last five years. Including last year and the present year, every department in CNSM has hired or will hire at least one new faculty member. These hires will help maintain the number of current faculty members, but she noted that she would prefer a larger number of faculty members. It was noted that tying new faculty lines to university strategic initiatives have been and will continue to be helpful in this process. She also noted that net revenue from CNSM, excluding sponsored research, is ~\$20,000,000 per year to the university.
3. The "Discovery Hearing" took place with the senior leadership of the university. The next step in the process is the formal budget hearing on March 29. The budget tool has already been created which is based upon expenses from last year with corrections for what positions / programs / etc. have been added or removed. Now that the baseline budget tool has been created, additional funding can be requested for improvements to CNSM. Additional teaching assistantship (TA) lines have been added, although not the desired amount. After the budget hearing is completed, there will be some

time where additional funding requested by each college will be considered. The sentiment from the university is that they have not specified that CNSM has to make any budgetary cuts, but have stated that there is always the need to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Dean Bjorkman expressed the opinion that we have already done sufficiently well at that, and is not certain that such further changes could be made. The formal budget will not be determined until the president presents the university budget to the Board of Trustees in May, followed by approval in June.

4. The School for Green Chemistry and Engineering has been officially approved. A preliminary meeting with NSF Inc. was seen as positive as they expressed an interest in the new school, which may lead to new connections for faculty and students (internships, etc.)
5. The Midwest Graduate Research Symposium will have some awards sponsored by CNSM for outstanding presentations. On April 2, a reception for graduating undergraduate students in CNSM will be held in Libbey Hall.

Question and Answer:

1. *Workload policy:* How is it materializing and what is the effect? Dean Bjorkman responded that she has been receiving mixed messages. From the financial office's point of view, we are not teaching enough but they are not accounting for other professional activity such as research and service. The positive wording of the policy is that Chairs and Deans will be responsible for monitoring and handling faculty workload, and that currently the CNSM system is working. She reiterated the need to retain credit for non-teaching activities such as research, service, outreach, and other professional activities. It is unclear what the final policy will actually be. In response to a comment from the council, she mentioned that a statement of support from the council on this subject would be welcome. She also brought up the point that a cost analysis states that it would cost the university ~\$1,300,000 if faculty in CNSM worked at the full teaching load without engaging in their other professional activities.
2. *Provost departure:* The provost is retiring; he has been supportive of our workload policy. We do not know who the new provost will be. Details on the search have not yet been released, but details on the process should be outlined within the next several days. [This actually occurred on campus as the council meeting was in progress.] The president made a comment about leaning toward a "non-traditional" provost. There will be a permanent provost in the position by July 1, and no interim provost will be appointed. Further details are not known at this time.
3. *Faculty startup and overhead returns:* Dave Walczak is working on keeping better track of start up funds. Current accounting practices are not compatible with keeping track of overhead contributions from individual grants. Gary Andres is working on keeping better track of the origin of these funds.
4. *Faculty development funds:* There are still faculty development funds remaining for travel. The current round of support ends on June 30, but will likely continue for next year. These funds are open to lecturers should they desire to attend a meeting relevant to their job. The funds are distributed on a

first-come-first-serve basis; however, when possible, supporting junior faculty members is a priority.

5. *Status of departmental leadership issues in CNSM:* She deferred on that question, but did state that she has been working on improving the situation between departmental leadership, faculty, and CNSM and that this is still a work in progress.
6. *CNSM bylaws and constitution:* Minor amendments are needed as to not conflict with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. These are in the process of being identified and corrected.
7. *Outreach programs:* Collaborations and outreach efforts originating within CNSM are doing well, particularly student organization based outreach. These activities raise the profile of CNSM and the university, especially within the local community.
8. *Status of "Schools":* Two schools currently exist within CNSM, the School for Solar and Advanced Renewable Energy and the School for Green Chemistry and Engineering. Two additional schools are in some stage of development based on work in biosphere research and science education (undergraduate level, not K-12). The school in science education may work with the College of Education, Health Science, and Human Service.
9. *Funding:* Is it true that future funding through the state will only be granted through "Schools"? University administration is currently looking at schools as a place to focus resources. The university also has three Third Frontier Centers of Excellence where extra strategic money may be focused, in addition to regular sources of state funds for education. Schools and Centers of Excellence will provide additional opportunities for different state funding.

Notes from March Chair's Meeting: Joe Schmidt

March Chair's Meeting was canceled.

Update on Elections: Joe Schmidt and Sibylle Weck-Schwarz

1. The council needs to provide a new at-large CCAP member as Don White's term is finishing. Some departmental representatives' terms are coming to a close.
2. Elections will be paper-based. Envelopes will be delivered for both CCAP and Graduate Council elections. The deadline for nomination ballots is April 2. On April 3 the elections committee will meet at 3:30 PM in the Dean's Conference Room to tally the nominations.
3. The elections committee was constituted and will consist of Joe Schmidt, Sibylle Weck-Schwarz, Don White, Fan Dong, and Brian Ashburner.

Update on Faculty Senate Activities: Faculty Senate Members

1. During the course of the last two Faculty Senate meetings, a resolution from the core curriculum committee was passed which "mapped" general education courses to higher-level courses. This means that students would receive credit for state mandated distribution requirements by taking more advanced courses in an area than the general education equivalent. The Provost's office still must negotiate this proposal with the state of Ohio.

2. Provost McMillan expressed a statement to the effect that university employees close to retirement should consider doing so early, potentially based on serious concerns about probable revisions within the state retirement system.
3. The reinstatement of instructor withdrawal power over students in a class was proposed and supported with some generally speculative reasons. A conversation in the council ensued to the effect that people in CNSM generally agree that withdrawal from a course should be only the student's responsibility. Ideas were also discussed involving moving the last date for student withdrawal to later in the semester and instituting a "Withdrawal Failing (WF)" mark on transcripts. There were many anecdotal pros and cons about whom should wield withdrawal power, but nothing formal was settled. Additional issues regarding withdrawal of students from a course (by the student or instructor) may arise from how state subsidies are awarded for when students complete a course when a passing grade of D- or higher is granted within one semester of withdrawal.
4. Minority retention was discussed. A study was done at University of Toledo specifically on the retention of young African American male students. The report gave some recommendations to help this issue, many of which are applicable to student retention overall (generally "best practices" for student retention).
5. Provost McMillan encouraged all faculty to become politically active. In response to the question "How is this to be appropriately done?" a nebulous answer was given implying that any way is encouraged.

Update on University Core: David Krantz

1. The development of the University Core is moving forward. The first step involves work on the general education component of the new core curriculum. As the deadline for submitting changes to the state of Ohio was not met, existing general education courses will remain in place for the Fall 2012 semester. The deadline so that new general education courses will be implemented for the Spring 2013 semester is April 1, which is in the process of being met.
2. All departments within CNSM have met the deadline for the second round of curriculum proposals. These proposals will be reviewed rapidly, a provisional list will be given to the Faculty Senate, and a more comprehensive decision will be given later. These proposals can be redacted at a later date.
3. As a general comment, the process of setting up everything for the Spring 2013 semester while avoiding an advising disaster for the Fall 2012 semester is happening relatively fast. It is believed that these efforts are moving forward positively.

CNSM Curriculum Committee: Anthony Quinn

1. Joe Schmidt mentioned that CNSM degree audits will not be able to be done properly for some time due to compatibility issues in the software with overlaying current (and past) college requirements with university requirements.
2. Proposed Course Additions and Modifications:
 - a. NSM 1000: Beginning Academic Journey, a mandatory freshman orientation course, was introduced as a necessary update of ARS 1000.

- b. EEES 2500 was modified by changing the course description and deleting the “introduction of GIS” component in this course (a later course will be added on this topic). The council recommended that the word “desktop” prior to “computer” should be removed from the EEES 2500 course description.
- c. The graduate level M.S. and Ph.D. degree in Biology degree requirements were altered. The graduate level courses in BIOL 6/8500 (Biochemistry) would no longer be required, and BIOL 6/8200 (Advanced Signal Transduction) would be required for both the M.S. and Ph.D. programs. CHEM 6/8500 is also no longer a prerequisite for BIOL 8/6200.

Modifications to these courses and programs were accepted unanimously.

- 3. It was noted that the program revisions, submitted by different departments during this last year, are not all being reviewed on the same schedule. The new online system for submitting program changes is not capable of providing the necessary information for the Faculty Senate, thus hard copies are being submitted to curriculum committees. The Faculty Senate program curriculum committee lacked a chair for several months, also contributing to the backlog.
- 4. It has been brought to our attention that no stipulations have been made about minimum mathematics requirements in the B.A. programs within CNSM. This will need to be rectified at a later date, a brief discussion involved adopting the lowest-level courses required by any program in the college as the minimum for the CNSM.

College Policy for Underprepared Students: Discussion led by David Krantz

Postponed until April.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Midwest Graduate Research Symposium will be held on March 24th. A judge for the mathematics area is still needed for oral presentation Saturday morning.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.