

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

October 4, 2006

3:00 – 5:00 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Sheryl Barringer, James Beatty, Daniel Collins, Lora Gingerich Dobos, Marcia Farr, Richard Gunther, Kay Halasek, W. Randy Smith (Vice-Chair), George Valco, Brian Winer (Chair)

Student Members: Jane Evans, Robert Calhoun (Council of Graduate Students), Elaine Yeh, Rose Babington (Undergraduate Student Government), Sheila Rajashekara (Inter Professional Council)

Guests: Linda Schoen, Assistant Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Professors Terry Gustafson, Department of Chemistry, Samuel Stout, Department of Anthropology and Jared Gardner, Department of English; Professor Edward Adelson, Associate Executive Dean, and Katherine Morgan, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Professors Paul Beck, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Donald Haurin, Department of Economics; Cynthia Feidler, Assistant Registrar; Robert Gustafson, Associate Dean, College of Engineering

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2006

- Minutes of the Meetings of August 23, 2006 will be reviewed and acted upon by the Council members whose terms included Summer meetings.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR BRIAN WINER

- Three proposals are on the agenda for the University Senate on October 12, 2006: Ph.D. Program in Dance Studies, Masters of Law Degree, and creation of the Department of Urology.
- He and Smith will attend a meeting with the University Senate Steering Committee on October 13, 2006 to give an update on Council activities for this year.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE-CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- Smith welcomed the four new faculty and three student members to the Council. Orientation sessions for the new members had been held on September 14 and 26, 2006.
- On September 29, 2006 the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Vice Provosts met with the University Senate leadership, Professors Allen Silverman, Chair, Faculty Council, Robert Perry, Chair Elect, Faculty Council, Harald Vaessin, Chair, Senate Steering Committee, and Chris Zacher, Secretary, University Senate, to discuss issues of alignment between this Council and the Senate on the proposal approval process.
- A proposal was received from the College of Medicine to use the term “center” for its Center for Clinical and Translational Research. The term “center” will be an important factor in the success of the University’s application for the Clinical and Translational Science NIH Award. A formal proposal for an academic center will be sent later.

Smith asked the Council if there were any objections to using the term ‘center’. There was none. The Council unanimously approved the request.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN FORENSIC SCIENCE, COLLEGES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES – PROFESSORS BRIAN WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D

Winer gave an overview of the proposed Interdisciplinary Minor in Forensic Science. It consists of courses from several academic units such as Anthropology, Chemistry, Geological Sciences, Computer Science, Sociology, Medical Technology, Molecular Genetics, Pharmacy, Psychology, Pathology. It requires completion of 23 hours which consists of 5 hours of an introductory course, 5 hours of a required foundational course and two of the three core courses. The remaining credit hours come from electives. Advising will be done by professional departmental advisors in Arts and Sciences as well as by participating faculty. No new resources will be required to support this minor. Smith added that the College of Arts and Sciences has in development more interdisciplinary minors.

DISCUSSION:

What are the fiscal implications of interdisciplinary minors considering that the Arts and Sciences plan to offer many more of them? Adelson indicated that funds will follow departments offering courses. The Colleges of the Arts and Sciences has brokered arrangements with all departments. Faculty levels are adequate to staff courses - these are existing courses. An interdisciplinary grant from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences is

being sought to offset the start up costs of the introductory courses. There is a tremendous interest in interdisciplinary minors.

Why are courses in Linguistics not included given that they include phonetics similar to Speech and Hearing 320?

GUESTS: DR. LINDA SCHOEN, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DEAN, COLLEGES OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, PROFESSORS TERRY GUSTAFSON, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, AND SAMUEL STOUT, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Schoen indicated that they are very excited about the Interdisciplinary Minor in Forensic Science. The goal of this minor is to provide students with a broad basic understanding of the field of forensic science. This minor is not designed to provide “in depth” knowledge of Forensic Science. The methods and measures of forensics will come from the students’ undergraduate major field of study and/or future graduate study. The minor consists of introductory courses, foundational courses, core courses, and a range of electives. Advising will be done by professional advisors in Arts and Sciences in conjunction with faculty teaching these courses.

- Why are Linguistics courses in phonetics not included in the minor electives? They are open to adding courses from other departments; however, the decision will be made by the Oversight Committee.
- Students complete a minor taking 200 and 300 level courses. Why are they not required to take 400 and 500 level courses? 400 and 500 level courses require completion of prerequisites. That would exceed the 23 hours required to complete the minor. In order to balance prerequisites with completion and offer flexibility, 400 and 500 courses are not included in the minor.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Minor in Forensic Science. The motion was seconded by Gunther. The motion passed unanimously.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN POPULAR CULTURAL STUDIES, COLLEGES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES – PROFESSORS BRIAN WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D

Winer gave an overview of the proposed Interdisciplinary Minor in Popular Cultural Studies. This Interdisciplinary Minor requires the completion of 24 hours, that consists of an introductory course for 5 hours, at least one course involving the study of a historical popular culture for 5 hours, one course focusing on popular culture outside majority-U.S. culture, and no more than two film courses. Other institutions have similar offerings. Course substitutions may be made at the discretion of the Faculty Oversight Committee.

DISCUSSION:

Council members raised the following questions:

- Music 253, Introduction to Jazz is included. Why is Music 252, History of Rock and Roll not included?
- “Women and Films” is not included as a film course. Is this not a film studies course? Should they list all courses that are allowed under film studies?

GUESTS: DR. LINDA SCHOEN, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DEAN, COLLEGES OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND PROFESSOR JARED GARDNER, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Gardner gave a summary of the proposal. For several years, students have expressed interest in more offerings in popular cultural studies. The minor is intended for students interested in developing an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Popular Culture. The goal of the interdisciplinary minor is to provide tools to our undergraduates to build bridges between the popular, public, and material cultures of their daily lives and the cultures that are the traditional objects of study of the University. Currently, the University offers a range of classes in different departments that address popular culture, but until now there has been no systematic approach for undergraduates interested in research in this growing and dynamic area. The Minor has been developed to provide students and faculty an integrated curriculum that will build upon areas of expertise currently being developed locally within individual majors. The minor curriculum was developed by an ad hoc committee appointed by the College of Humanities Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. The development committee sought wide participation and engagement of units within the Arts and Sciences and continued to be open to inclusion of a wider range of coursework from other colleges.

The minor requires the completion of five courses for at least 24 credit hours, including a mandatory 5-credit introductory course. The minor will provide students with a range of theoretical, methodological, and historical approaches as well as providing the tools for students to make connections between popular culture studies and a range of other disciplines. Only one course may be from the student’s major department, and this may not be counted in the major. Other than the required introductory course, no more than two courses may be taken at the 200-level. No more than two classes to be counted for the minor may be taken from a single department. Substitutions may be made at the discretion of the Faculty Oversight Committee.

Council members raised the following issues/suggestions with the guests.

- It is difficult to find film courses. What criteria are used for a course to be considered a film course? The film courses are specified on the spreadsheet. The criteria are set by the College of Humanities Interdisciplinary Committee.
- Why are there no 400 or 500 level courses in the minor? 300 level courses are the upper level courses in this case.
- Separate “film courses” and list them.
- Why was Music 252 – History of Rock and Roll not included in the list? Gardner promised to include Music 252 in the list of courses.

There were no further questions.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Minor in Popular Cultural Studies. The motion was seconded by Valco. The motion passed unanimously.

A Council member noted that offering 300-level courses instead of 500-level courses has financial implications for the University relating to subsidy level.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN PUBLIC POLICY: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES PERSPECTIVES, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES - PROFESSORS BRIAN WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has had an interest in developing an undergraduate major program in public policy for many years. However, such a proposal was not funded by the central administration. This Minor in Public Policy: Social and Behavioral perspective requires completion of 24 credit hours, which consists of two core courses, two specialization courses, and a capstone requirement. Econ 200 or AED 200 is a prerequisite course to the minor. Students are encouraged to pursue an internship in government agencies, advocacy groups, or other organizations involved in public policy. A departmental internship course may be substituted for a specialization with approval of the minor advisor. Overlap with the GEC is permitted. Students should meet with the coordinating advisor prior to selecting the specialization area to plan their minor program.

Unlike the two interdisciplinary minors approved at this meeting, this minor, administered by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, has upper level courses.

DISCUSSION:

- This minor actually has 29 hours instead of 24 hours when the prerequisite is included. Why is Economics 200 the prerequisite?

- Some of the courses in the minor fulfill general education curriculum requirements.
- There are many policy- related courses in Women’s Studies, Educational Policy and Leadership, and throughout the Health Sciences. Why are they not included? Smith noted that with regard to health policy, this Council had recently approved a new minor in public health and that this college had been involved in that proposal. Different subfields of policy may appear as separate proposals.

GUESTS: PROFESSORS PAUL BECK, DEAN, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND DONALD HAURIN, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Beck summarized the minor program. This Minor’s specific focus is on understanding social and behavioral science perspectives on public policy issues, with a focus on domestic policy issues facing the U.S. It is a very broad field. It has been narrowed down to 2-2-1 sequence. There are requirements of two core courses, two specialization courses, and a capstone requirement with Econ 200 as the prerequisite for the minor. The John Glenn School of Public Affairs has offered its complete support for this minor.

- With Econ 200 as a prerequisite, the minor has 29 hours and not 24. Haurin noted that although Econ 200 is a prerequisite course for this minor, it is also a GEC and large numbers of students complete that course for GEC purposes. It provides the methodology students need for this minor that no other course can provide.
- Given that specializations relating to gender, race, and ethnicity are specified in the proposal, why is there no concurrence from Women’s Studies and African-American and African Studies? Beck said that they were open to contacting these departments for inclusion.
- If other units want to offer an interdisciplinary minor in Public Policy, what will be this College’s response? Beck and Haurin said that they will be supportive. Adelson indicated that an arts policy proposal may be forthcoming.

Beck added that the College will invest in this minor, to offer the kind of program that will benefit students so that, for example, they could be better prepared for a graduate program in Public Policy.

There were no further questions for the guests.

Smith indicated that we rely on the Arts and Sciences (ASC) Committee on Curriculum and Instruction to do a thorough job in evaluating minors before submission to this Council. That includes concurrence/letters of support. While it is impossible to contact

all units on campus that might offer a policy related course – particularly given that this is only a minor and not a major – he presumed that units within had been made aware of this proposal and that there was still the opportunity to be included. He would recommend approval of this proposal, contingent upon certain conditions.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Minor in Public Policy: Social and Behavioral Sciences perspectives. The motion was seconded by Beatty contingent upon following conditions.

- the approval letter should include the statement that this College does not own the term “public policy”;
- the College should contact the Departments of Women Studies and African-American and African Studies, and inform them of the implementation of this minor and determine if they have courses that might be considered for inclusion.
- The Council will ask for status report on this minor.

The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM (GEC) OVERSIGHT – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

All Council members have now received the full set of college responses to the Final Report of the Committee on the University-wide Review of Undergraduate Education.

Since April 2006, Smith has convened several meetings with representatives of all undergraduate colleges to discuss the report and the colleges’ responses to it.

The Colleges of the Arts and Sciences’ Senate voted, at its June 2006 meeting, to remain at 191 hours for the BA degree but to reduce the GEC by 5 hours. The 191 hour action is being revisited by that Senate this Autumn. The other undergraduate colleges are waiting to see the outcome of that action – given that required-GEC hours are linked to it.

A critical issue that can be addressed soon is the recommendation within the Report for a University-wide Oversight Committee for the GEC. Winer and Smith met with all undergraduate colleges on September 28, 2006 and the oversight issue was discussed. A copy of the draft membership and draft charge to such a committee was distributed to Council members with brief discussion.

The proposed oversight committee will consist of 10-12 people. It will include members of current Arts and Sciences GEC assessment committee; faculty representatives from colleges outside ASC; a student representative (perhaps from this Council); and a professional advisor (having a professional advisor on the committee is crucial given that advisors are so critical to the GEC and its implementation). The committee will be appointed by and report to this Council.

Smith noted that there appears to be widespread support for this draft document and the Council should return to it soon for action.

The recommendation in the Report for a freshman cluster has received tremendous support across the university. Arts and Sciences appears to be further ahead in its thinking on this recommendation and is recommending a pilot program for as early as Autumn 2007. Gunther noted that individuals in the ASC Senate advocated clusters at the advanced level rather than for freshmen. Smith noted that Council will need to address the issue of oversight of the cluster programs? Where should that reside?

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta