

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

April 25, 2007

3:00 – 5:00 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Lora Gingerich Dobos, Richard P. Gunther, E. Kay Halasek, W. Randy Smith (Vice Chair), George J. Valco, Brian L. Winer (Chair)

Student Members: Rose M. Babington (Undergraduate Student Government), and Jane Evans (Council of Graduate Students)

Guests: Edward H. Adelson Associate Executive Dean, Jessica Mercerhill, Director, Curriculum Office, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar, Office of University Registrar; David Roy, Senior Assistant Director, Enrollment Services, Undergraduate Admissions; Professor Harald E. Vaessin, Department of Molecular Genetics; Professor Allan J. Silverman, Department of Philosophy; Mary Dannemiller, Lantern Reporter; Professor Cheena Srinivasan, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Karen Miller, Office of Resource Planning; Patricia Gardner, Assistant Director for Academic Studies, Dental Hygiene, Dr. Jill Pfister, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2007

The yet-to-be approved Minutes of the Meetings of March 28 and April 4, 2007 will be reviewed and acted upon on May 2, 2007.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR – PROFESSOR BRIAN L. WINER

The Ad Hoc Committee on Centers and Institutes has been established and had its first meeting on April 24, 2007.

COMMENTS FROM VICE CHAIR - PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

The proposals for Center for the Study of Religion and the name changes for the undergraduate (B.S.) and graduate (M.Ed., M.S., and Ph.D.) majors from Agricultural Education and Human and Community Resource Development to Agricultural and Extension Education will be on the May 4, 2007 Board of Trustees' agenda.

On May 2, 2007 the Council will review the remaining BS templates: from the College of Education and Human Ecology, and the School of Allied Medical Professions. We will formally act on all 8 BS templates reviewed to date at that time. Strong attendance is urged, given that we need at least 8 Council members for a quorum.

A proposal for a graduate interdisciplinary specialization in Geospatial Data and Analysis was approved February 7, 2007 contingent upon receipt of a concurrence letter from Professor Carolyn Merry, Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science. A letter has since been received by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Departments of Geography and Statistics have been given approval to implement the proposal.

Next academic year there will be a considerable turnover in the Council membership. Winer, Valco, Yeh, Evans, and Rajashekara will be finishing their terms and Gunther will leave the Council to be the Chair elect of the Faculty Council next year.

DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION – PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D

- **B.S. Templates from Other Colleges**

Winer introduced the B.S. templates submitted by Dental Hygiene and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

- **Dental Hygiene B.S. Template**

Patricia Gardner gave a summary of the proposal. The number of required electives is adjusted so that the total number of general education requirements (GEC), basic sciences, and electives is reduced to 84 from the current 94 hours. The number of credit hours in the GEC varies depending on the choice of mathematics and logical analysis course (4 or 5 credit hours) and whether the second writing course overlaps with another GEC category. They dropped 5 hours from Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and Historical Study and added back 10 hours of student selected courses. The net reduction was 5 hours. They also reduced the electives from 9-15 to 4-10 thus reducing 5 more hours. Their proposed hours to graduation will be reduced from 196 to 186. A student focus group was consulted before arriving at the proposed template.

There are 123 undergraduate students in the Dental Hygiene program.

There were no major questions/comments. Subcommittee D moved to end the discussion and it passed unanimously.

- **Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (FAES) B.S. Template**

Jill Pfister gave a summary of the proposal. She added that they do not have a proposed BS template for Nutrition because this program resides in two colleges and will need to be a blend of both colleges' proposals.

As the template was developed, the faculty focused on flexibility, decreasing complexity, number of hours for graduation, and the student's curriculum as a culmination of the GEC, College, major and minor requirements. Five hours were reduced from Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities; one hour was increased in the writing related skills courses and decreased one hour from the free electives. The faculty did not want to reduce hours from the natural sciences. About 50% of the students in FAES are required to do one or two minors or a second major. This leaves very little room for electives. The majority of their students does minor in business or entrepreneurship. Decreasing the other five hours from elsewhere will make it difficult to complete the program. If electives are included, the hours to graduate will be lot higher. With the current proposal a reduction of 10 hours from the GEC will result in 180 hours to graduate.

Council members indicates that FAES should only be allowed to reduce the GEC by 5 hours and should try and find 5 hours from electives. The 10 hour reduction cannot all come from GEC.

Subcommittee D moved an end to discussion of this template pending a resubmission by the College and it passed unanimously.

Smith added that School of Allied Med and the College of Education and Human Ecology may not be able to reduce beyond the 5 hours GEC reduction due to the recent merger of the two colleges.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS – PROFESSOR CHEENA SRINIVASAN, CHAIR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND KAREN MILLER, OFFICE OF RESOURCE PLANNING

Winer asked Professor Srinivasan to give a summary of the findings of the Subcommittee of the University Fiscal Committee on implementation of a reduction in credit hours to graduation. Implementation is expected to begin in FY 2008 with a full impact occurring by FY 2013. The 2008 through 2013 simulations are based on reducing the number of credit hours required for an undergraduate to graduate. Applying an incremental implementation process, the reduction of credit applies to various rankings of students depending on the year of implementation – freshman the first year, freshman and

sophomore the second year, freshman, sophomore, and juniors the third year, all ranks the fourth through sixth year. The model also incorporates both the college's GEC credit hours and credit hours enrolled in by junior and senior ranked students who are majors. Total fee losses projected for the Columbus campus are weighted equally by these two factors for each college. The model also simulates a phase-in scenario of the number of students likely to graduate in a timelier manner. In the third year of implementation, the number of first time students who graduate is expected to increase by 10%; in the fourth year by 15% and in the fifth year by a range of 25%-33% and in the sixth year by 33% as a result of reducing credit hour requirements.

The fiscal implications of reducing undergraduate hours to graduate and the loss of fee revenue will result in an estimated \$15million over six years. The Colleges of Arts and Sciences offers ~90% of the GEC courses. The College of Humanities will experience the most credit hour loss. The Executive Vice President and Provost has committed to provide funds to help buffer changes and the Ohio Board Regents has been informed of the potential change and its impact on the University.

Srinivasan indicated that the Deans are aware of the potential fiscal implications and believe that it is manageable. Moreover, the Office of Business and Finance is watching carefully the cash balances of all colleges.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta