

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 Bricker Hall

May 6, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 PM

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Faculty:

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| ✓ Dr. Lawrence A. Baum (Political Science) | Dr. Marcia E. Farr (Teaching and Learning) |
| ✓ Dr. Neelima M. Bendapudi (Marketing and Logistics) | ✓ Dr. Jay S. Hobgood (Geography) |
| ✓ Dr. James W. Cogdell (Mathematics) | ✓ Dr. Michael Ibba (Microbiology) |
| ✓ Dr. Kathryn A. Corl, (Germanic Languages and Literatures) | ✓ Dr. Daniel A. Mendelsohn (Mechanical Engineering) |
| | ✓ Dr. Robert J. Ward (Music) |

Students:

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| Mr. Robert D. Calhoun (CGS, History of Art) | ✓ Ms. Sarah K. Douglas (CGS, History) |
| | ✓ Mr. Benjamin T. Reinke (USG, Physcs) |

Administrators:

- ✓ Dr. W. Randy Smith, (Academic Affairs), Vice Chair

Guests:

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| Dr. Alexis C. Collier (Associate Provost) | Mr. David E. Roy (Director, Enrollment Services) |
| Mr. John E. Dickhaut (Office of the University Registrar) | Dr. Elliot E. Slotnick (Associate Dean, Graduate School) |
| Dr. Terry L. Gustafson (Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences) | Dr. Abril Trigo (Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese) |
| Ms. Julia McGory (Program Specialist, Department of Linguistics) | |

The Council came to order at 3:04 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF MARCH 4, 2009 AND APRIL 22, 2009

The Minutes of the Meetings of March 4, 2009 were approved as distributed, and those of April 22, 2009 were approved with one correction. Smith noted that with these approvals, there are no outstanding sets of Minutes that need approval.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR DANIEL A. MENDELSON

Mendelsohn presented a draft proposal on credit hours that will need to be addressed formally by Council for the calendar conversion from quarters to semesters. The Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP) has a small working group developing options for a new calendar. Members from the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) – Mendelsohn, Corl and Collier - were asked to join some of the discussions with CESP regarding the definition for a credit hour. Parameters of the calendar, including class length, term length, and expectations for a ‘mini-semester,’ together with the definition of a credit hour, jointly influence the work load of a student within a given time period. Smith indicated that the Council needs to be sensitive to letting CESP come forward with the parameters of the calendar and then move forward with affirming or revising the current definition of a credit hour. It is too early to do so at today’s meeting.

Council members pointed out students’ qualifications and abilities have improved in recent years, so some increase in academic challenge might be appropriate. Mendelsohn suggested that Council consider “guiding principles” for its forthcoming work. For example, an operating principle might be that whatever the details of the new semester calendar that it should be designed so that the current definition of what constitutes a credit hour and it’s implications about student workload should be maintained somewhere close to where it is now, and that the rigor of the curriculum must be maintained or increased to account for the increasing quality of the incoming students. The credit hour definition might have to be modified though with respect to distance learning. Smith will follow-up with other institutions in Ohio – University of Cincinnati, Ohio University, and Wright State University - that are converting to semesters to learn more about how they are addressing similar issues.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith provided Council with several updates.

- A committee to address dual high school and college enrollment is being established. A representative from the committee will meet with Council on June 3, 2009 and provide an update on progress.
- The proposal for a Ph.D. in Translational Plant Sciences is on the agenda of the University Senate for action at its meeting on May 7, 2009.
- The annual Activity Report for CAA is being compiled for presentation at the June Senate meeting.
- Searches are now underway or continuing for an Executive Dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, a Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Students, an Associate Vice-President for Enrollment Services, and a Library Director.
- Next year there will be four new Council members for Corl, Farr, and Ibba, who will be rotating off, and for Sally Rudmann who has not been replaced. Three appointments will come from the Faculty Council of the Senate, and one will be a Presidential appointment. A new Chair will also need to be elected.

- A workshop on Learning Outcomes Assessment was held earlier today as part of the university's Leadership Program series. He and Collier had participated.
- A request has been made to change the name of the Havener Eye Institute in the Department of Ophthalmology, College of Medicine, to the Eye and Ear Institute. Support for the change came from Professors Robert Bornstein, Associate Dean, College of Medicine, Steven Gabbe, Senior Vice President, Health Sciences, and Wiley Souba, Dean, College of Medicine.

Smith provided an overview of the operational strategy being developed to manage the calendar conversion. Smith will be the lead person in the Office of Academic Affairs to administer the conversion, and will work in close consultation with the Senate leadership. He, along with a new Provost Faculty Fellow (to be appointed), will co-chair a steering committee. The committee will include university faculty, students, staff, deans, and potentially representatives from local community and regional campus co-located technical institutes that will be changing their calendars in tandem with The Ohio State University. The steering committee will be supported by a Project Manager (already appointed as part of replacement for an existing position) and other OAA support personnel. Smith expects several subcommittees will be formed to guide required changes in areas such as technology and space. Another Provost Faculty Fellow will likely be appointed to help specifically with the numerous curricular changes.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES - PROFESSOR MICHAEL IBBA, CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE B

Ibba presented a synopsis of the proposal for a new Masters degree program in Latin American Studies. The new program is an interdisciplinary Latin American areas studies program that complements existing graduate programs in several disciplines. With several concentrated options, the program can be tailored to individual students' needs and applied to a number of career paths. The proposal is also timely in that it fits with the institution's emphasis on globalization.

Professor Abril Trigo met with the Council to answer questions. Ibba asked for clarification of the concurrence with the Fisher College of Business (FCOB). Because of the external accreditation for a concentration in 'international business,' FCOB advisors will help business MA students design an appropriate course of study; also, because of potential demand in the college, students outside of business will enroll with the approval of the FCOB graduate programs office. Trigo viewed the careful attention from the FCOB positively.

Bendapudi seconded the motion brought forth by Ibba to approve the proposal. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D—PROFESSORS DANIEL A. MENDELSON AND W. RANDY SMITH

- **Revision to the Undergraduate Major, Department of Linguistics**

Mendelsohn brought forth the proposal to revise the Linguistics major that had been tabled at the previous meeting. Currently all majors are required to take a research course. The proposed change is for the requirement to apply only to Honors students. The question had been raised previously as to whether the research requirement should be dropped for non-Honors students.

Julie McCory met with the Council to describe the rationale for the proposed revision and answer questions. She indicated that the current mix of Honors and non-Honors students in the same class results in too much diversity to adequately challenge Honors students. Council members asked if the Department had considered a separate version of a research course. McCory responded that many of the majors pursued applied careers in a second language and teaching rather than graduate students in theoretical computation for which the research course is more appropriate. However, the department might consider other options for non-Honors students in the future. She would also need to verify whether the change in requirements would not adversely affect students' options to achieve the program's expected learning outcomes.

Douglas seconded the motion brought forth by Mendelsohn to approve the proposal. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 4 opposed. Members asked that feedback be provided to the Department to consider an alternative required course option for non-honors students who will no longer be required to take the research course. Smith will do so.

- **Agriculture Communication Minor, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**

Mendelsohn brought forth the proposal for a minor in Agriculture Communication designed to provide students with communication skills in agricultural and environmental sciences. The proposal had been tabled at the last meeting because concurrence letters and syllabi had not been included. Council had been particularly interested in the concurrence and syllabi from the School of Communication given that the minor will include two of its courses. All of the concurrences and syllabi were provided and reviewed.

The motion to approve the minor was seconded by Cogdell and approved unanimously by voice vote.

- **Revision to the Undergraduate Major, Department of Microbiology**

Mendelsohn presented a proposal to revise the Microbiology major. The proposal is to change the organization and total credit hours for Microbiology 581, Microbial Genetics, a 5-credit hour course required for majors. The course is currently 5-credit hours and consists of 3-hour lecture and 2-hour laboratory components. The proposed change is to split the course into two related but separate courses, a 3-hour lecture and a 3-hour laboratory. The additional credit hour for the major would be offset by one credit hour reduction in required electives. The proposed changes would make better pedagogical use of laboratory time, align better the work load with credit hour, and facilitate scheduling of laboratory space. Overall the proposed curricular changes should result in improved flexibility and content delivery.

The motion to approve the proposal was seconded by Douglas and carried by voice vote with one abstention.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Reinke presented Council members with a resolution from the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) to encourage the university to print the name of students' majors on their diplomas. Reinke further indicated that an endorsement from CAA is being sought before taking the resolution to the Board of Trustees. The Chair asked that the resolution be sent to the full Council for discussion at a future meeting. Smith noted that both CESP and the Office of the University Registrar needed to be contacted for input before the CAA discussion.

Reinke also discussed USG interest in establishing a new major in Cinematography and Photography. Currently there is an interdisciplinary major in Film Studies but it is not focused on production. Previously the institution offered a Photography major but costs became prohibitive. USG is interested in whether consideration could be given to such a major because costs might be less now with the availability of new technologies. Mendelsohn noted that typically proposals for new majors come from faculty within units. Also, costs would not necessarily be less even with new technologies. Smith noted that those expressing interest in this potential program soon should contact Professor Terry Gustafson, Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted

W. Randy Smith
Alexis C. Collier