

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 Bricker Hall

June 3, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 PM

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Faculty:

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

Students:

- ✓ 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:

- Dr. Alexis C. Collier (Associate Provost)
- Dr. Daniel Collins (Associate Professor, Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures)
- Mr. John E. Dickhaut (Associate Registrar, Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Terry L. Gustafson (Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences)
- Dr. Guisela LaTorre (Assistant Professor, Women's Studies, Latin Studies)
- Dr. Elliot E. Slotnick (Associate Dean, Graduate School)
- Mr. John Tanous (USG-Elect)
- Dr. John Wanzer (Senior Assistant Vice Provost, Enrollment Services and Undergraduate Education)

The Council came to order at 3:05 PM.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR DANIEL A. MENDELSON

Mendelsohn reported that in preparation for the University's conversion to semesters, the academic calendar proposed by the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP) for the 2012-2013 academic year will come up for vote at the Senate Meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2009. He noted that barring a motion to move it and change the decision time, information should be released to the University community on Monday, June 15. He added that there are strong opinions on each side concerning the issue of proposed number of days for the semester.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF MAY 20, 2009

Mendelsohn moved approval of the Minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2009. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- Introduced Melissa Soave, who joined the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) on June 1, 2009 as a Program Manager. Soave comes to OAA from the Colleges of the Arts and Humanities where she worked with Dean John Roberts. She brings a strong background in communications to her new position.
- Informed Council members that the interdisciplinary Master of Arts program in Latin American Studies was approved by the University Senate at its May 28, 2009 meeting. The new Ph.D. program in Translational Plant Sciences is on the agenda for action at the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, June 5, 2009.
- Provided an update on the new Engineering bachelor of science degrees that are in the review/approval process at the Ohio Board of Regents: Biomedical Engineering and City Planning and Regional Planning have been approved, with Environmental Engineering approval expected soon. Approval of the new degree in Construction System Management is not expected until Autumn 2009.
- Provided additional information to the semester calendar update by noting that the proposed semester calendar that was brought forward at the last University Senate meeting was tabled pending further discussion. Two open forums were held and as Mendelsohn stated, the calendar will be brought back to the Senate on June 11, 2009 and the plan is to act on it at that time. In terms of collecting feedback, a Web site for comments was made available (semesters@osu.edu) and a survey went out from the Committee to various groups.
- Shared with Council members a request made by the College of Veterinary Medicine to change the name of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital to the Veterinary Medical Center. He noted that request for the use of the term "center" must be reviewed by the Office of Academic Affairs and this type of request usually occurs when there is an attempt to pull a bundle of clinically-related activities together. In this case, the Veterinary Medical Center will have three subcomponents: The Hospital for Companion Animals, The

Hospital for Farm Animals, and The Galbreath Equine Center. There were no concerns from Council members about this request. Smith will convey this action to the Dean and the Executive Vice President and Provost.

- Reported that in response to the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) announcement of the availability of a new (temporary) 4th-5th grade endorsement to be added to the existing pre-K to grade 3 Early Childhood license, the College of Education and Human Ecology (EHE) has made a request for license endorsement.

ODE expects to re-band all of the existing licensures into new grade level configurations. ODE, as well as many local school districts and licensed teachers are eager to have this endorsement in place to help meet the needs of local communities by providing greater flexibility for the teaching staff within elementary schools. This is temporary until ODE re-bands its grade level activities.

For EHE, this would mean four courses. Two courses are content oriented: Integration of Mathematics and Science into 4th and 5th grades, and Integration of Language Arts and Social Studies into 4th and 5th grades. The two additional courses focus on Development and Transitional Issues. EHE is going to establish this transitional program until the banding is completed. The request was sent to the Graduate School for approval (due to the MED program being housed there now). The request has been approved by OAA.

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

- **Establishment of a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Latino/a Studies**

Subcommittee Chair Mendelsohn presented the proposal to add a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Latino/a Studies. Guisela LaTorre, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Faculty Member in the Latino Studies Program, attended the meeting to provide a brief overview and respond to questions/comments.

LaTorre explained that the proposed GIS would consist of 15 credits of graduate study for MS and PhD students enrolled in programs on campus. It requires one core course, ASC 705, that provides an overall overview of what the discipline is like and introduces students to common research methodologies and common debates within U.S. Latino Studies. Students are required to take two more courses within three focus areas: Culture, Literature, and the Arts; History Concentration; and Social Issues. It is incumbent on the student to best decide their respective focus area. This GIS is designed to supplement the training they are getting in their respective departments and provide another dimension to their overall study.

The following issues brought by Council members were addressed:

- ASC 705 is not part of the masters program in Latino Studies. It is the only course required for the GIS and it is a new course that will be offered for the first time in Winter 2010.
- Clarification on the number of courses: three courses are required, not four as originally proposed.
- Concurrence: Sociology, Art Education and Human Development and Family Sciences did not include comments with the signed concurrence forms. This was deemed sufficient indication of agreement.
- Overlap between the undergraduate minor courses and this specialization: If an undergraduate student has this minor, and goes on to the graduate program, the courses will not be counted.
- The Culture, Literature, and the Arts focus lacks courses from the College of the Arts due to the fact that here (and nationwide) visual arts and performing arts lack ethnic courses in general.
- At this time and with its anticipated small enrollment, assessment is essentially a classroom survey and exit interviews. As the number of students grows, assessment will grow in complexity. Smith noted that the Learning Outcome Assessment has been primarily at the undergraduate level, but there is growing discussion about what should be done at the graduate level.

Hobgood seconded the motion brought forth by Mendelsohn to approve the proposal. The motion carried with all in favor and 1 abstention.

- **Increase in the Required Hours of the Russian Major from 43 to 50, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures**

Mendelsohn introduced the proposal. Dan Collins, Associate Professor, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, attended the meeting to provide a brief overview and respond to questions/comments. The revision includes an increase in hours that brings it much more in line with comparable majors in Arts and Sciences and benchmark institutions. It also adds a new track: Literature, Culture, and Film and proposes a change to the course sequence numbering for better clarity.

The following clarifications were sought by Council members and were addressed:

- The Department faculty has expanded to 12 in anticipation of the change. There are 100 majors.
- The courses that are taught in Russian are all language courses. All 500-level literature classes are taught in English. At the 600-level literature courses the language of instruction is English, unless specially advertised.
- Students are allowed to study abroad after Russian 103.
- Assessment: For language, ACTFL OPI standards are specified. For culture, the Department's Undergraduate Studies Committee is beginning a process for assessment for each course within the major.

Reinke seconded the motion brought forth by Mendelsohn to approve the proposal. The motion was carried with all in favor.

MINORS DISCUSSION LED BY SUBCOMMITTEE A—(LARRY BAUM AND KATHY CORL, ABSENT – NEELI BENDAPUDI)

Working from the Council's charge to Subcommittee A to consider several issues relating to minors, Baum presented Council members with findings based on their consultation with the Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction and with people in two other colleges to get ideas and information. Findings focused on the areas of uniformity, structure for the approval of minors, and guidelines for Minors for Honors Students.

Uniformity

A few differences across colleges are potentially problematic. For example, under current conditions two students in two different colleges taking the same courses for the same minor and receiving a grade of D: in one case the minor is considered complete, but in the other it is not. Also, confusion then exists for advisors who need to apply different rules depending upon in which college the student is enrolled.

According to Professor Terry Gustafson, Associate dean, Arts and Sciences (ASC), the biggest barrier for ASC CCI is the C- versus the D grade. There is a strong sentiment in the CCI that if units allow a D to count for a minor, ASC will not approve that minor for ASC students.

Structure for Approval

It is confusing to the University Community that after CAA approves a minor, ASC, through the CCI, requires a separate approval of non-ASC minors for ASC students. The non-ASC departments are not always aware that they need that separate approval and they need to be informed. Another recommendation is that perhaps the CCI consider whether they really need a separate approval.

Minors for Honors Students

The subcommittee determined that clarity is needed for students. Many departments have special honors requirements for minors. Only two departments require honors students to meet those requirements, Mathematics and Spanish.

In Council's discussion of the minors, one idea that was discussed was that the requirements for the minor, including the necessary grade point, should be set by the department that was offering the minor. After the appropriate approval, ending with the CAA, then the attaining of the minor is then basically an agreement between the student and the offering department. The college in which the student is enrolled should play no role in setting the requirements for the minor, specifically with respect to the grade point required. It is the offering department that certifies the minor.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Smith noted that in terms of minors, slight variances have developed in colleges over time and no university-wide guidelines have been developed. This discussion of inconsistencies in the minor emanated from implementers across campus who would like to see them resolved. Students want minors and there should not be structural impediments impeding taking them.

The Council will provide leadership in this issue. Smith suggested that Council looks at other institutions, hold a set of forums, and pull together point people from all colleges that offer minors. Scenarios and examples such as those discussed today would be very helpful as discussions go forward.

Smith announced that CAA will meet through the summer. Soave will be in touch to schedule these meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted

W. Randy Smith
Melissa Soave