

# COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 Bricker Hall

February 17, 2010

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## DRAFT MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

#### Faculty:

- Dr. Leslie Alexander (History)
- ✓ Dr. Lawrence A. Baum (Political Science)
- Dr. Neelima M. Bendapudi (Marketing and Logistics)
- ✓ Dr. Marilyn J. Blackwell (Germanic Languages and Literatures)
- ✓ Dr. James W. Cogdell (Mathematics)
- ✓ Dr. Jay S. Hobgood (Geography)
- ✓ Dr. Daniel A. Mendelsohn (Mechanical Engineering)
- ✓ Dr. Robert J. Ward (Music)
- Dr. John W. Wilkins (Physics)
- ✓ Dr. Kay N. Wolf (Allied Medical Professions)

#### Students:

- Ms. Sarah K. Douglas (CGS, History)
- Ms. Olga A. Isenberg (CGS, Business)
- ✓ Mr. Benjamin T. Reinke (USG, Physcs)
- Ms. Meghan Offenberger (IPC, Pharmacy)
- ✓ Mr. John D. Tannous (UGS, Political Science)

#### Administrators:

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

#### Guests:

- Dr. Ann Christy (Faculty Fellow, Academic Affairs)
- Dr. Alexis C. Collier (Associate Provost)
- Mr. John E. Dickhaut (Associate Registrar, Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Terry L. Gustafson (Associate Executive Dean, Arts and Sciences)
- Dr. Kate Hallihan (Director, Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Office)
- Dr. Gerald Nelms (Post Doctoral Researcher, University Center for the Advancement of Teaching)
- Mr. David L. Roy (Assistant Director, Enrollment Services)
- Dr. John Wanzer (Senior Assistant Vice Provost, Enrollment Services and Undergraduate Education)

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The Council came to order at 3:12 PM

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2010 AND FEBRUARY 3, 2010 MEETINGS**

Hobgood moved approval of the Minutes of the January 20, 2010 and February 2, 2010 meetings; the motion was seconded by Mendelsohn and approved unanimously.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR JAY S. HOBGOOD**

- Provided an update on semester conversion and outlined the tentative plan to enhance the existing subcommittee structure of this Council.
- At its February 11, 2010 meeting, the University Senate approved the following proposals: The Merger of the Three Graduate Programs in Veterinary Medicine and the Establishment of a Comparative and Veterinary Medicine Degree Program; The Establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science; and The Establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Sciences.
- Reported that he had attended a leadership retreat with Senate Committee Chairs and the Provost. One outcome of the meeting was that the next leadership retreat (to be held possibly later in the spring) should include members of the Council on Academic Affairs, the Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, and the University-Level Advisory Committee on the General Education, as these groups are most closely involved in the conversion to semesters.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH**

- Two additional subcommittees are being finalized under the Calendar Conversion Committee Structure: Student Life and Advising.

Smith noted that Martha M. Garland will serve as Acting Vice President of Student Life until May 2010 and is stressing the need for a semesters subcommittee from that academic support area; and that the Advising Subcommittee is an outgrowth of a recommendation from Undergraduate Student Government. Wayne Carlson, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Dean for Undergraduate Education, is assisting in the establishment of the Advising Subcommittee.

- In light of the recent number of proposals seeking alteration that have been brought forward, the question was raised at the February 11, 2010 University Senate meeting as to whether there will be an increase of these types of proposals coming forward in the future (either mergers or separations). There is considerable restructuring currently underway.

The proposal to merge the Departments of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering that was discussed at the February 3, 2010 Council meeting will now be

discussed with Faculty Council at its meeting on February 18, 2010. It will then be brought back to this Council for a vote on March 3, 2010 before going onto the University Senate and the Board of Trustees.

Other restructuring proposals that will be coming forward include the transfer of the faculty and programs in Rural Sociology, and the merger of the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

- Academic Program Reviews of the Department of Physics and the School of Earth Sciences are scheduled for Winter Quarter. The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures and the Department of Near East Languages and Cultures reviews are scheduled for spring.

### **PROPOSAL FROM SUBCOMMITTEE A—PROFESSORS LESLIE ALEXANDER, LAWRENCE BAUM, AND JOHN WILKINS; JOHN TANNOUS**

- **New Computational Science Minor, College of Engineering**

Hobgood reintroduced the proposal which had been first discussed at the December 2, 2009 meeting.

He reminded Council members that the proposal is linked with a 2005 action by the Ohio Board of Regents to create the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science (RRSCS), a “virtual” school housed at the Ohio Supercomputer Center. The proposed minor curriculum consists of six required courses (including an internship), and at least one elective.

The discussion of this proposal was tabled at the December 2, 2009 meeting based on concerns surrounding the minimum number of hours that a student must complete from the Ohio State course list in order to receive the minor from Ohio State and typical paths to the minor in light of the large number of pre-requisites.

P. Sadayappan, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, provided three sample course plans for Computer Science, Materials Science, and Mechanical Engineering students. These course plans demonstrated that only two to four courses would really be needed to complete the minor due to the College of Engineering’s policy of “double-counting” credits for a minor. He also attended this meeting to respond to additional concerns:

- Although the college had not considered the issue of the minimum number of courses that an Ohio State student must be required to complete at the Ohio State campus, a restriction of no more than two or three courses from other institutions could be imposed. The College will defer to Council’s recommendation.
- At this time, the minor is designed for engineering students, but the College of Engineering is willing to continue to work with other colleges to provide a way for other students to complete it.

A straw poll was taken with a majority in favor of a requiring a minimum of four courses be taken at Ohio State. The discussion was once again tabled until confirmation of college-level review and approval is given for this minimum number. Smith will follow up with the curricular dean in the College of Engineering and report back to Council.

#### **PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D—PROFESSORS JAY S. HOBGOOD AND W. RANDY SMITH**

- **Institution of a Pre-Major for the Undergraduate International Studies Major, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Based on some outstanding questions as to how students will declare, how the pre-major will be enforced, and concerns with the number of advisors, this proposal was tabled at the February 3, 2010 meeting until the Director of the International Studies Major, Professor Anthony Mughan, could be present.

Mughan noted that the International Studies Major is not housed in a single department and the addition of a pre-major will provide a sense of community for those seeking it.

Although the enforcement of the pre-major is complicated because there is not a common gateway course in which the pre-major requirements can be stated as pre-requisites for entry into the program, the structure that is created by the pre-major will allow for orientation sessions with students. These sessions will provide a connection in which to better advise students (i.e., reinforcing the language requirements and encouraging students to finish these requirements early).

The pre-major also follows a recommendation of an External Review Team to make the foreign language requirement more rigorous in the major.

Hobgood moved approval, it was seconded by Mendelsohn, and the motion carried with all in favor.

- **Creation of a Dual Degree Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Science (MS) in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, Fisher College of Business and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**

Hobgood provided an overview of the proposal.

The Fisher College of Business and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics (AEDE) propose to create a dual Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. Students completing this program would earn two degrees: an M.B.A. from the Fisher College of Business and an M.S. degree from AEDE.

The dual degree takes advantage of the common elements between Business and AEDE and because of the existing policy for allowing for the double-count of credits, the dual degree can be completed with 121 hours.

This proposal was approved by the Graduate Council on January 11, 2010 and the members of the Council on Academic Affairs had no major concerns with the proposal.

Hobgood moved approval, it was seconded by Cogdell, and the motion carried with all in favor.

## **UNDERGRADUATE MINORS**

The discussion on minors continued from the February 3, 2010 meeting. Although uniformity in requirements across the university remains an issue, the most pressing issue is determining the minimum number of hours for minors under semesters. It is generally thought that the correct range is 4-5 courses, 12-15 hours.

- Should it be left to the colleges do decide what level courses in their minors should be or should there be an exclusion of 1000-level courses (currently 100-level courses).
- Decisions on the minimum credit hours/accepted level of courses will affect the language in the Program Template for semester conversion and the guidelines found in the Semester Conversion Manual.
- The recommendations determined at today's meeting will be brought to the Curriculum Subcommittee for Semester Conversion at the committee's next meeting.
- Although other issues surrounding minors remain (the acceptable amount of pre-requisites, Honors Minors, among others), the most critical issue, in terms of timing, is the minimum hours. Academic units are waiting for this information. The Council will revisit the other issues.

After some additional discussion, Council decided to recommend that all courses within the 12-hour minimum be at the 2000-level or above in light of the opportunity presented by restructuring the course numbering in semesters—that there would be equality among courses within specific levels.

Hobgood put forth the motion that the minimum number of semester hours required for a minor is 12 at the 2000-level or higher. Blackwell seconded the motion and it passed with eight in favor and one opposed.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith  
Melissa Soave

