

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 Bricker Hall

April 21, 2010

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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:

- Ms. Andrea Bour (Course Coordinator, Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Ann Christy (Faculty Fellow, Academic Affairs)
- Dr. Alexis C. Collier (Associate Provost)
- Mr. Jay Johnson (Assistant Provost and Associate Director of Institutional Research, Office of Academic Affairs)
- Dr. Terry Gustafson (Associate Executive Dean, Arts and Sciences)
- Dr. Kate Hallihan (Director, Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Office)
- Mr. David L. Roy (Assistant Director, Enrollment Services)
- Ms. Sarah Tokar-Lang (Academic Planning Specialist, College of Education and Human Ecology)

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The Council came to order at 3:03 PM

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF APRIL 7, 2010

Hobgood moved approval of the Minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2010. The motion was seconded by Ward and approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION

Melissa Soave introduced Liana Crisan-Vandeborne, Office of Institutional Research and Planning, who, effective this meeting, will help with the preparation of the Minutes of each Council meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR JAY S. HOBGOOD

- An additional meeting of the Council has been added to the 2009-2010 schedule: April 28. This meeting will cover preliminary discussions about the restructuring of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. The ad hoc committee studying the proposal will hold open forums on campus next week.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- At its April 15, 2010 meeting, the University Senate approved the following proposals: Rename the Department of Industrial, Interior, and Visual Communication Design to the Department of Design; and Merge the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering to become the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. On May 14, 2010, both proposals will be presented to the Board of Trustees for action.
- The Board of Regents currently is reviewing the proposal to merge the Graduate Programs of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Veterinary Biosciences, and Veterinary Preventive Medicine into Comparative and Veterinary Medicine. We are in the process of sending the proposals for the new degrees in Geography (the B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences and the B.S. in Geographic Information Science) to the Board of Regents for the final level of approval.
- A proposal to merge the Departments of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology, and Molecular Genetics, into the Department of Molecular Genetics has just been received.
- With regard to the proposal approved by the Council on April 7, 2010 to move 6 faculty in Rural Sociology from the Department of Human and Community Resource Development to the School of Environment and Natural Resources, Smith has contacted the Graduate School which would like, over the next month, to also put the graduate program changes in place to present them simultaneously if possible, to the University Senate in May 2010.

- Representatives from the College of Education and Humanity Ecology have been invited to present at a forthcoming Council meeting to provide an overview of major programmatic changes that will accompany its semester conversion materials.
- Two language departments are undergoing program review during the months of April and May 2010: the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures.
- On April 23, 2010, the Arts and Sciences Senate will meet to consider the University-Level Advisory Committee recommendations on revisions to the General Education Curriculum.
- Provost Joseph A. Alutto has announced that Professor Michael Boehm, Chair, Department of Plant Pathology, will join the Office Academic Affairs as Vice Provost. Subject to approval by the Board of Trustees, his appointment will be effective May 15, 2010. Boehm will focus on capital improvements that strategically support the academic plan and provide oversight of a number of academic support units. Boehm replaces Professor Michael Sherman, who has accepted the appointment as Provost at the University of Akron, effective June 1, 2010.

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

- **Revision to the Public Affairs Major in Journalism, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

The Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction approved this proposal on February 19, 2010, following approval by its Social, Behavioral, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences Subcommittee on January 11, 2010. Professor Amy Nathanson, School of Communication, and Susan Van Pelt, Academic Planning Specialist were present to provide an overview of the proposal.

The purpose of the profession of journalism has changed dramatically over the years. With this revision, the School is trying to retain as many of the major courses they currently have and update them. There has been restructuring of the curriculum and revision of a few of the courses, essentially to add more of a multimedia component to them. Students who graduate from one of these programs will have more multimedia experiences and skills and will be more marketable in the workforce. These changes are a result of input from students, who considered these to be important skills for them to have. Some of the pre-major requirements have been changed too.

In response to questions and comments:

- the continuously changing role of technology in this field has not necessarily led to routine, extensive revisions to the curriculum, over the past decade or so, but the experiences the students have, and encounter at The Lantern, have evolved naturally with the technology change. They get up-to-date multimedia experiences.
- the new courses are not necessarily seen within the context of our specific placement among (ahead of or behind) benchmark institutions. In a broader sense, the goal is to teach students how to present themselves, and their stories, in a more “media rich” way. The pre-requisite methods in the new proposed program will require a course in research methods, and other benchmark institutions do not all include this as a requirement, so it should be unique for our program. The School’s instructors are skilled in teaching these courses, and recent faculty hires have extensive experience and passion for teaching.
- with regard to continuous use of information on student learning outcomes for program change, it was noted that this is a high priority after implementation.
- for clarification, the School did not seek re-accreditation for this program a decade ago; that action does not appear to have had an effect on student placement; and there is no current discussion to seek re-accreditation.

There were no other additional concerns from members of the Council.

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

- **Revision to the Health Sciences Degree Program, School of Allied Medical Professions. (Guest: Professor Deborah Larsen, Director, School of Allied Medical Professions)**

Professor Larsen was invited to present the proposal. The Health Sciences program has primarily been used by students intending to go on to graduate school or a professional education. With this revision, it will continue to be intended for students who plan to apply to graduate professional programs such as Hospital/Health Services Administration, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, Public Health, or other graduate program of their choice. 20-30% of students use it for preparation for an entry-level position in a healthcare organization, such as health coaching or program manager. The program provides an introduction to the organization and delivery of healthcare, as well as general education, to facilitate completion of graduate program prerequisites. Graduates are prepared for graduate education or graduate professional education, or an entry-level health-related career, such as health coaching. The School’s Curriculum Committee approved this proposal on January 15, 2010.

The following concerns were shared and addressed:

- students already enrolled will graduate as intended, and the revised program will be presented to new students.
- to give students more choices and to better prepare them for a profession in Health Science, they will not be required only certain minors. They will have an option to a broader variety of minors (especially in management and business minors).

Hobgood moved approval; it was seconded by Ward; and the motion carried with one abstention and fifteen in favor.

- **A Combined Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Science (MS) in Physics, College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences**

The Department of Physics would like to implement a combined Bachelor's and Master's degree. It allows students to double count upper division coursework, therefore graduating from the University with a Master's degree in physics after an estimated 5 years. The hope is that this program will act as both a recruiting tool and an additional career option for physics undergraduates.

The proposal was discussed and approved by both the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Committees of the Department of Physics, as well as by the full Physics Faculty. It was approved by the Graduate Council on March 15, 2010.

There were no concerns with the proposal.

Hobgood moved approval; it was seconded by Ward; and the motion carried with one abstention and fifteen in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Liana Crisan-Vandeborne
W. Randy Smith