

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 8 December 2020**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:04 pm on 8 December 2020, via Webex virtual video conferencing by Clifton Ealy, chair.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Jessica Birnbaum, Deanna Bush, Carrie Cumming, Michael Duffy, Clifton Ealy, Steven Eberth, Kate LaLonde, Eli Lantz, Elijah Lewis, Irma Lopez, Dianna Sachs, Daniela Schroeter, Nicolas Witschi

Members Absent: Bruce Ferrin, Colin MacCreery

Academic Advising Liaison in Attendance: Betsy Drummer

Advisory Member in Attendance: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio in Attendance: Matthew Mingus

Guests: Wilson Warren, Chair, History; Linda Borish, History; Bernard Han, Business Information Systems; Mike Tarn, Business Information Systems; Decker Hains, Civil and Construction Engineering; Mitchell Keil, Engineering Design, Manufacturing, and Management Systems; Adam Manley, Family and Consumer Sciences

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

It was moved by LaLonde, seconded by Schroeter, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Birnbaum joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes

It was moved by Lopez, seconded by Bush, to approve the minutes of 10 November 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Ealy welcomed new members and guests. It was noted that due to Ferrin's absence there was no report of the most recent Faculty Senate meeting.

Ex Officio Mingus reported that according to the Executive Board charge #3 was developed at the request of the Western Student Association. It is unknown if the current WSA considers the topic to be a priority in light of the fact that WMU and other universities offer a wide range of bachelor degrees. Also, according to the Executive Board charges #5 and #6 were given to all councils and should be addressed through the scope and role of each council. Mingus noted that curriculum change proposals are due to the Faculty Senate office no later than 31 December and USC will need to address them by its February meeting. The council leadership should take this into account when developing the January and February meeting agendas.

Reports of University Representatives

Lantz reported that the Western Student Association cabinet recently met with the President's Cabinet. A priority for WSA is to build collaborative relationship between WSA and other units such as the Graduate Student Association, WMU-AAUP chapter, and the administration. Lewis reported that the WSA Senate held their second Student Forum and will be facilitating communication and collaboration between WSA Senate and the college deans.

Reports of Council Standing Committees

Duffy provided the report of the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee. Kirsty Eisenhart was elected as vice chair.

The report of the Service Learning Course Approval Committee was postponed to the next meeting.

The report of the Transfer of Credit Committee was postponed to the next meeting.

Martini and Manley joined the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Warren reported that with the move of the Social Studies Secondary Education major from the College of Education and Human Development to the College of Arts and Sciences, CAS has undertaken a redesign of the major to include a more even distribution of content between four departments including history, political science, geography, and economics. It will be housed in CAS but not in a particular department. Advising will be centralized through CAS. Duffy noted that there was no letter of support from the Libraries, and Warren reported that there would not be any effect on Libraries resources for this program. Ealy asked about the impact of changing this program from CEHD to CAS, including how many students would be likely to enroll in the program. Warren explained that when CEHD offered a secondary education major in social studies, the numbers of student enrolled had been declining, and that most courses in the CEHD program were social studies content courses, not education courses. Students intending to pursue a career in education in Michigan would need to complete a post-baccalaureate education program. Sachs asked whether this program would be appropriate for students intending to pursue a career in education in a different state. Warren noted that while requirements vary by state, historically 90% of states have accepted Michigan credentials. CAS and the four departments will need to develop a plan for administering this program as an interdisciplinary program, including advising. Witschi noted that the infrastructure for administering a similar program existed under the CEHD secondary education program. CAS will adapt that same structure. Ealy asked how learning outcomes will be assessed, given that each of the four departments has listed five to six learning outcomes for a total of 22. Warren replied that this was a difficult question given that the program is not housed in any one department. History will be assessing student learning outcomes for all their majoring students, including students in this interdisciplinary program. Warren noted that CAS will need to determine how this will be conducted for all four departments. LaLonde suggested that the second learning outcome under History could be reworded to make it more measurable.

It was moved by LaLonde, seconded by Bush, to approve CAS 20-80.INTD-New-Social Studies Major, pending revision of the second History student learning outcome.

Cumming reported on Charge #2: *Research best practices regarding University issued certificates. Review and revise undergraduate certificate program (MOA-14/02)*. Undergraduate certificates were established beginning in 2014 as a stand-alone certificate program. Subsequently, ten undergraduate certificate programs are in existence. Concern that some of the certificate programs that have been approved mirror the requirements for a minor or major, and there is no prohibition against students counting courses toward both a certificate and a minor/major. This may allow students to “double count” courses and receive two certifications: a certificate and a minor/major for completing a single set of courses. This raises concerns for accreditation between the distinction of a certificate and a minor/major. This council should consider whether a policy change is needed to limit the ability of students to “double count” courses between an undergraduate certificate and another program. Birnbaum asked whether students who want to enroll in a certificate program could complete the prerequisite courses for the required certificate courses and later apply those prerequisite courses to a minor/major if they were to later enroll as a degree-seeking student. Cumming noted that certificate programs could include *some* courses that would be in common with a minor/major, but not all.

Han joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Cumming reported on Charge #3: *Research policies and best practices, and recommend established guidelines, to determine if a newly created degree is a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree*. The number of different bachelor degrees awarded since 2015-16, noting that Bachelor of Science was the largest, followed by Bachelor of Business Administration, followed by Bachelor of Arts and other programs. Witschi reported that most universities do not provide a clear definition of the difference between a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts degree. A clarification of this distinction may not be necessary, especially in light of the variety of additional bachelor degrees that WMU offers.

Duffy reported on Charge #4: *Collaborate with the International Education Council and the Graduate Studies Council to provide recommendations on how to best support faculty in the area of global learning*. The officers of the USC, GSC, and IEC will be meeting on 9 December to begin addressing this charge.

Tarn joined the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

New Business

It was moved by Duffy, seconded by Birnbaum, to carry forward ISPAC 2019-20 charges #1, #3, #5, and #6 to the 2020-21 charges. The motion carried unanimously.

Han reported on HCOB 20-08: HIIM Deletion-Health Information and Information Management Major. The program has already been deleted by CHHS and just needs to be accepted by USC. It was moved by LaLonde, seconded by Mingus, to approve HCOB 20-80. The motion carried unanimously.

Han and Tarn left the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

It was moved by Schroeter, seconded by Lopez. To approve CEAS P-20-30. The motion carried unanimously.

Manley reported that the Business Education Group Major became redundant following changes in teacher certification requirements by the State of Michigan. It was moved by Birnbaum, seconded by Bush, to approve CEHD 1101. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ealy, seconded by Birnbaum, to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.
The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 12 January 2021, in a Webex virtual meeting at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Dianna E. Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved this twelfth day of January 2021.