

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday, 15 September 2009, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: A. Anderson, R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, D. Cowan, B. Ferrin, D. Nisula, D. Reinhold (for Provost T. Greene), D. Ravotas, D. Sachs, A. Smith, V. Torano, and G. Whitehurst. **Absent without substitution:** K. Hearit. **Guest:** Joseph Kayany, School of Communication. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Jeanine Bartholomew, Academic Advising Liaison; and Steve Miller, Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs.

Procedural Items

Council Chair Raja Aravamuthan called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Whitehurst moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Ravotas. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Nisula moved approval of the minutes of 9 June 2009, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

A welcome was extended to new council members Doris Ravotas, Interdisciplinary Health Services; Alexander Smith, Western Student Association; and the soon-to-be-elected new council chair. The new chair will need to bring before the council a review of the council charges.

Action/Discussion Items

*Curriculum Proposal: School of Communication –
Accelerated Bachelors/Masters Degree in Communication [CAS 374] –
Joseph Kayany, Director of Graduate Studies, Communication*

[NOTE: This proposal was approved by the Graduate Studies Council on 25 June.]
Kayany answered questions from the council regarding this proposal.
Communication expects to admit no more than 10 students per year to this program and believes it can absorb that many additional students into existing graduate course offerings. The proposal was approved.

Election of Council Officers for 2009-10: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

The council elected Bruce Ferrin as chair, Ariel Anderson as vice chair, and Kent Baldner as secretary.

Election of Members to the Committee to Oversee General Education

Anderson moved, seconded by Whitehurst, that the council elect John Geiser, Biological Sciences; José Brandão, History; and Raja Aravamuthan, Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging to the three open positions on COGE. Motion carried.

Other

Reinhold addressed the council regarding issues held over from last year. He summarized proposed rewording from USC's Committee to Oversee General Education of Question 8 on the Curricular Review Form recommended to remove redundancies. USC requested additional changes. The new wording for Question 8 on the Curricular Review Form is as follows:

#8. General Education Criteria. For a general education course, indicate how this course will meet the criteria for the area or proficiency. (See the General Education Policy for descriptions of each area and proficiency and the criteria. Attach additional pages as necessary.) *In addition, attach a representative syllabus. if (a) proposing a new course (b) requesting certification for baccalaureate level writing, or (c) requesting approval of an existing course.) The course syllabus will be used by the Committee to Oversee General Education (COGE) to help determine if the course meets the stated requirements of the proficiency or distribution area in which it will be included.*

Ferrin will advise COGE of the changes USC members requested to the proposed language. Pending COGE approval of that language, Anderson moved, seconded by Whitehurst, to recommend revising #8 on the Curriculum Review Form to read as worded above to the Faculty Senate's Executive Board. Motion carried.

[NOTE: On 24 September, COGE approved the USC language.]

COGE has recommended that faculty teaching general education courses include the relevant criteria on their course syllabi. Reinhold provided an example of the language that might be included on a syllabus for a representative course in order to fulfill this recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner