

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 13 October 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, V. Torano, G. Whitehurst, J. Wu

Absent without substitution: K. Hearit, A. Smith

Guests: Andrew Kline, Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging

Also present: Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office

Procedural Items

Council Chair Bruce Ferrin called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

Aravamuthan moved approval of the minutes of 9 September 2009, seconded by Reinhold. Motion carried.

Chairs Remarks

A new undergraduate student member, Jeremy Wu, was introduced as a representative from the Western Student Association. Two faculty members are self nominated to fill the two membership vacancies on the council. Confirmation of those nominations is pending approval at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

Action/Discussion Items

Curriculum Proposal: Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering – Curriculum name change from “Engineering Graphics and Design Technology” to “Engineering Design Technology”, revise curriculum [CEAS-09-57-IME]

Aravamuthan offered to answer questions regarding this proposal. The proposal is to change the name of the program in accordance with a request from the accrediting agency. There are also some courses added and some dropped. Baldner moved acceptance of the proposal, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Curriculum Proposal: Paper Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Imaging – Accelerated Degree Program (ADP): Master of Science in Paper and Imaging Science and Engineering [CEAS-09-37-PCI]

Andrew Kline addressed the council regarding this proposal for an Accelerated Degree Program in Paper Imaging Science and Engineering. Anderson moved approval of the proposal, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Discussion of Council Activities for 2009-10

Ferrin reported on his discussion with Faculty Senate President John Jellies. This year, the Senate Executive Board will not present USC with a formal list of charges, but will leave this matter up to the council. Ferrin distributed a handout with the council functions as defined in the council role statement as well as USC charges from previous years.

<http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/USC.handout.13Oct09.pdf>

The council discussed the recent Attendance Initiative and decided to request data on how this is working. An interest was also expressed in receiving information from the Registrar on how Midterm Grading is working and A. Anderson wanted to promote working closer with student groups such as the Western Student Association. As Wu serves as a USC member representing WSA, he was requested to report back to the council on the Attendance Initiative, after discussing it with WSA members.

Contacting Extended University Programs regarding on-line courses and review of the University's repeat policy in relation to late withdrawal were suggested for USC consideration.

Topics suggested as specific 2009-10 USC charges were:

1. Contact the Campus Planning and Finance Council to clarify USC's function #6 in the USC role statement: "To confirm that financial support necessary to initiate and maintain the proposed new programs or program changes has been approved by the appropriate University body (e.g. Campus Planning and Finance Council)."
2. Continue with 2008-09 charge #4: "Review the availability of resources and services to foster student retention and develop recommendations for enhancing them if determined necessary. Examples might include but not be limited to the First-Year Experience, mid-term grade reporting, grading scales (i.e. +/-)." Focus on expansion of mid-term grading and the Attendance Initiative.
3. Discuss the role of faculty in the WMU strategic plan. Specifically to discuss an "alliance" between faculty and student populations in relation to the mission of the University with respect to teaching and research, with the initial focus of USC discussions on the strategic plan's statement of the WMU mission.
4. Request assessment of general education and baccalaureate-level writing requirement from the Committee to Oversee General Education.
5. Review the University's dismissal policy and consider giving students two complete semesters before dismissal. If agreed, develop MOA to change current policy.

Approval of the above list of five activities will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Other

Reinhold offered to provide an update on assessment of general education at the November meeting.

Although David Cowan volunteered to serve as the USC representative on the University Assessment Steering Committee, he is unable to do so because of the UASC's meeting schedule. A representative from the council is still needed.

Aravamuthan inquired about having all completed curriculum proposals scanned and made available on-line. Reinhold said those reside in the Registrar's Office in hard copy and there was no plan to make them available on-line at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner