

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of Tuesday, 8 December 2009, 3 p.m.  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

**Members present:** A. Anderson, R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, D. Cowan, B. Ferrin, K. Hearit, K. Hillenbrand, D. Nisula, D. Reinhold (for Provost Greene), D. Sachs, A. Smith, V. Torano, G. Whitehurst, J. Wu

**Absent without substitution:** I. Nash, D. Ravotas

**Guests:** Joel Boyd, Career English Language Center for International Students; Timothy Ready, director, Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations; Diana Vreeland, director, CELCIS

**Also present:** Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate office; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs

**Procedural Items**

Council Chair Bruce Ferrin called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

*Acceptance of Agenda*

Anderson moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Hearit. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Anderson moved approval of the minutes of 10 November 2009, seconded by Reinhold. Motion carried.

**Action Item**

*Curriculum Proposal: Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations – Create a new minor in Race and Ethnic Relations; Timothy Ready, Director*

T. Ready addressed the council regarding this proposal. Two of the objectives of the minor are to provide Western students with a cross-cultural perspective on race and ethnic issues, and to provide students with cross-cultural competencies. Students would need to take 18 credit hours to complete this minor. Two new courses are being proposed that would be required for the minor. Questions were raised about whether or not the courses that satisfy the minor could also count towards general education requirements. There were also several questions about the wording of the proposal and provisions that have been changed but were not reflected in the materials made available to the council. Aravamuthan moved acceptance of this proposal, seconded by Torano. Motion rejected. Reinhold moved referring the proposal back to the Arts and Sciences College Curriculum

Committee for clarification on these and other issues, seconded by Aravamuthan. Motion carried.

**Discussion Items**

*Extension of Guest Student Policy to Include Students in the Career English Language Center for International Students (CELCIS) – Diana Vreeland, Director*

D. Vreeland and J. Boyd addressed the council regarding the functions and purposes of CELCIS. CELCIS provides instruction in English as a second language for international students at Western, as well as WMU faculty, staff and administrators, and members of the Southwest Michigan community. At President John Dunn's urging, Vreeland proposes to start a discussion regarding granting credit for coursework taken by students as part of CELCIS. This would allow these students to be counted as Western students, helping them to become part of the University community. Taking these courses for credit could help some students with regard to obtaining and maintaining their visas, but might be problematic for others. Any final proposal would need to take account of this, perhaps granting credit for some courses but not others. Members of the council suggested that CELCIS come back at a future meeting with a specific proposal for the council to consider.

*Discussion of the Draft Academic Affairs Strategic Plan*

Ferrin noted that the deadline for input for the current draft of the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan is approaching very soon, making any input from this council not very helpful at this point. However, Reinhold noted that the plan will be a "living document" that would allow the council to make input at a future time. With that in mind, this discussion was tabled.

**Other**

Reinhold noted that the provost is considering the introduction of undergraduate non-degree certificate programs. At the present time, we have non-degree certificate programs at the graduate level but not at the undergraduate level. These programs would serve the needs of students who need to demonstrate some kind of competency but who are not seeking a degree.

Hearit noted that preliminary enrollment numbers for next fall look very positive.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner