

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 9 November 2010, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: A. Anderson, N. Andreadis, R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, B. Ferrin, K. Hillenbrand, M. Kritzman, D. Ravotas, D. Reinhold (for Provost T. Greene), D. Sachs, C. Thralls, V. Torano, G. Whitehurst. **Absent without substitution:** K. Hearit, P. Krawutschke

Guests: Wayne Fuqua, chair, Psychology; Donald Nelson, chair, Computer Science; Cynthia Running-Johnson, chair, Foreign Languages; Rika Saito, Foreign Languages. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs; Steve Miller, Director, Office of Transfer Student Services

Procedural Items

Council Chair Bruce Ferrin called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Aravamuthan moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Andreadis. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Aravamuthan moved approval of the minutes of 12 October 2010, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

A question was raised at the most recent Faculty Senate meeting on 4 November about amending the late withdrawal policy. Ferrin explained the concerns that led to this issue. Members of the Senate Executive Board present at the Senate meeting suggested that this council might want to reconsider this policy. Ferrin simply wanted to bring this matter to the council's attention.

Action Items – Curriculum Proposals

CAS 680 – Foreign Languages – New Major in Japanese

Running-Johnson and Saito addressed the council about the proposed new major in Japanese. The number of students that minor in Japanese has doubled in the last six years. Currently those students seeking to major in Japanese must transfer to another institution. Foreign Languages would have the resources for this major as long as its part-time budget from the College of Arts and Sciences remains constant. Anderson moved acceptance of the proposal which was seconded.

contingent on two changes to language in the proposal. Motion carried (with two abstentions.)

The two changes to the language in the proposal were:

(1) Removal of the first sentence in Number 9 on the Request to College Curriculum Committee for Curricular Improvements form that references the Michigan Department of Education. If not removed, this proposal would need to be reviewed by Professional Educators Board.

(2) In the Proposed Catalog Copy, note the specific number of courses allowed as substitutes instead of the language, "...can be used as substitutes for one or multiple courses listed under "Required Courses" or "Elected Courses."

CAS 747 and 748 – Psychology – New Majors in Behavioral Science and General Psychology

Fuqua addressed the council. The Psychology Department is looking for ways to focus its resources most on its career oriented students. The proposal is to have two "tracks," one of which is devoted to a scientific understanding of psychology for students pursuing a career in psychology and related disciplines, and a second track for those whose interests are more general. The department plans to gradually phase out the existing major after a year or so. Aravamuthan moved acceptance of the proposals, seconded by Baldner. Motion carried.

CEAS-11-01-CS, CEAS-11-02-CS, and CEAS-11-03-CS – Computer Science – Delete Computer Science "General Option" and "Sciences Option"; Introduce New "Computer Science" minor

Nelson explained that this is largely a "house cleaning" measure. There are two existing minors that are very similar. These proposals replace these two minors with a single new minor that meets the desiderata of both of the existing minors. Baldner moved acceptance of the three proposals (with a minor correction to the language in the Computer Science Minor proposal [CEAS-11-03-CS]), which was seconded by Kritzman. Motion carried.

The correction was removal of the sentence, "Not all courses listed are suitable for every minor." (This was in the note under Computer Science Electives for Minors.)

Discussion/Information Items

Meeting with the Committee to Oversee General Education – Bruce Ferrin

Ferrin met with COGE to discuss how to satisfy the council's charges regarding general education. Four recommendations came out of this discussion:

A. form a sub-committee involving COGE, USC, the University Assessment Steering Committee, and representatives of faculty teaching general education courses;

B. review the process used the last time general education was revised;

C. correlate general education objectives with learning objectives specified in the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan;

D. suggest to the deans working on implementation of the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan that they should interact with faculty working on the “re-conceptualization” of general education.

Addressing Council Charges

Discussion tabled due to time constraints.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner