

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 10 May 2011, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

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

Guests: José Brandão, History; Vincent Desroches, Foreign Languages; Marcia Feters, Chair, Committee to Oversee General Education; Cynthia Running-Johnson, Chair, Foreign Languages. **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs

Procedural Items

Council Chair Bruce Ferrin called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

Anderson moved approval of the minutes of 12 April 2011, seconded by Kritzman. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

Noting that today's meeting is the last of the 2010-11 Senate year, Council Chair Ferrin thanked members for their service and announced that Aravamuthan and Whitehurst were re-elected. There will be a meeting on 14 June, which begins the 2011-12 Senate year before the council's meetings end for the summer.

Action/Discussion Items

*Curriculum Proposal – Department of Foreign Languages –
Create a Minor in Canadian Studies [CAS791R]*

Cynthia Running-Johnson addressed the council regarding the proposal from Foreign Languages to create a new (interdisciplinary) minor in Canadian Studies. She was joined by José Brandão and Vincent Desroches representing faculty in History and French. Kritzman moved acceptance of the proposal, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried.

Accelerated Degree Program Policy Revisions

Though he had to leave early, Reinhold briefly reviewed and endorsed changes made by the Graduate Studies Council to MOA-09/03 regarding revisions to the Accelerated Degree Program. Council members suggested changing "Current 5000 level courses (required or elective) in the bachelor's degree may be taken at the graduate level and double counted." to "Current 5000 level courses (required or elective) in the bachelor's degree ~~may~~ **must** be taken at the graduate level ~~and to be~~ double counted." Baldner moved approval of the revised language as amended by this council, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Syllabus Template Memorandum of Action Revisions

Ferrin discussed the proposed MOA regarding syllabi templates. The Graduate Studies Council made several changes to the language proposed by this council. Anderson moved acceptance of the revised MOA as a joint motion from both this council and the Graduate Studies Council, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

*Request for Assessment of General Education and Baccalaureate-level Writing
Requirement from Committee to Oversee General Education –
Marcia Feters, Chair, COGE*

Marcia Feters addressed the council regarding the general education baccalaureate-level writing assignment and reassessment of general education. Ferrin noted that the council has requested that COGE re-assess this.

*Discussion of Role of COGE in "Reassessment of General Education" –
Marcia Feters*

Feters told the council that COGE has reviewed departmental compliance with assessment requirements in general education courses, but has not yet assessed the appropriateness or effectiveness of these requirements. Feters suggested that assessing the effectiveness of the requirements would necessitate a significant expansion of COGE's traditional functions. In order to do this kind of evaluation, Feters suggested the existing Gen Ed policy would have to be made much more specific in a number of ways. Feters will write a draft response to the Faculty Senate Executive Board for the council to consider at its 14 June meeting.

Curriculum Implications of Sustainability Initiative

Ferrin addressed the council regarding his thoughts about introduction questions of sustainability into the curriculum. He asked us to think about whether these kinds of concerns should be addressed by the introduction of specific Gen Ed requirements concerning this issue, specific courses devoted to sustainability, or by requiring that all/some Gen Ed courses include such a sustainability component. A lively discussion ensued. Kritzman will attempt to produce a statement for this council to send to the Faculty Senate Executive Board for this council to approve at its 14 June meeting.

Election of Council Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Ferrin was re-elected as chair, Anderson as vice chair, and Baldner as recording secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner