

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 14 February 2012, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: A. Anderson, R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, Philip Egan (for C. Thralls), B. Ferrin, K. Hillenbrand, P. Krawutschke, M. Kritzman, D. Ravotas, D. Reinhold, C. Rettich, D. Sachs, V. Torano, G. Whitehurst

Absent without substitution: N. Andreadis, K. Hearit

Also present: Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs

Procedural Items

Council Chair Bruce Ferrin called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

Anderson moved approval of the minutes of 17 January 2012, seconded by Krawutschke. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

Today's meeting will be short so that members can attend this afternoon's "Town Hall" meeting regarding the School of Medicine.

Discussion Items

*Discussion of Charge #1 from the Faculty Senate Executive Board:
Credit Hours and Monitoring Enrollment*

The Higher Learning Commission charges institutions of higher learning to develop guidelines regarding the definition of a "credit hour" of coursework, and polices to monitor student enrollment.

This is an ongoing matter that involves other issues and co-ordinated responses with the Graduate Studies Council, so further discussion will be postponed until a later date.

Discussion of Charge #2: Medical School Issues

Given that there will be a Town Hall meeting on the Medical School this afternoon, it makes sense to postpone this item until after this meeting.

*Discussion of Charge #4: Scope and Description of USC's Role Statement
and Standing Charges*

Our discussion began with our uncertainty about exactly what our "standing charges" are, and we decided this must refer to the "Functions" listed on the Faculty Senate Web page.

With respect to Functions 3 and 4 (regarding deficiencies and overlaps in the curriculum), we noted that we have never approached these matters proactively. We haven't attempted to look at the university curriculum as a whole to address these issues. We do consider these matters in the specific proposals brought before us, but we have no consistent mechanism for gathering the information relevant for doing so. A suggestion was made that we try to establish such a mechanism. This council may consider proposals to change the curriculum approval process to accomplish this.

Functions 6 and 7 concern oversight of financial resources, which we consider outside the role of this council. Consequently, Baldner moved, seconded by Anderson, that we eliminate Function 7 and replace the existing Function 6 with the following language: "To consider whether or not the undergraduate curriculum is meeting student needs, and make recommendations as appropriate." Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner