

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 10 April 2012, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: A. Anderson, N. Andreadis, R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, Phil Egan (for C. Thralls), K. Hearit, K. Hillenbrand, M. Kritzman, D. Ravotas, D. Reinhold, C. Rettich, D. Sachs, G. Whitehurst **Absent without substitution:** B. Ferrin, P. Krawutschke, V. Torano **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs

Procedural Items

Council Vice Chair Ariel Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

The vice chair noted that the item listed under Discussion/Action Items, 2. Academic Policy Drafts, was not ready for council discussion and needed to be removed from the agenda. Andreadis moved acceptance of the agenda as amended, seconded by Hillenbrand. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Andreadis moved approval of the minutes of 13 March 2012, seconded by Ravotas. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

Council Chair Bruce Ferrin is unable to attend today, and Vice Chair Ariel Anderson chaired the meeting.

Information Item

*Data on 2012-13 Applications – Keith Hearit, Vice Provost
for Strategic Enrollment Management*

Hearit provided an overview on enrollment trends. Summer I and Summer II were, 6 weeks ago, down about 7%. This has picked up in the last few weeks, and we are now at approximately last summer's enrollment levels.

Fall freshman registration is currently down 860 from last year. It is difficult at this point in time to predict eventual enrollment numbers, but a lot of work remains to be done to increase these numbers. But the large number of students expected to graduate soon imply that overall enrollment for next year will be down. Many factors, from the economy to the weather, seem to have an impact on enrollment and application trends. In general, undergraduate enrollment looks like it will be down, but there is still a lot of uncertainty.

Action/Discussion Items

Revisions to the General Education Policy

The council discussed a draft proposal for changes to General Education Policy. That proposal would revise the General Education Policy (as it appears on page 7 at http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/General_Education_Policy.pdf). The proposal, with new language underlined, expands the fifth paragraph in the section titled The Committee to Oversee General Education to read:

With the approval of the USC, the COGE shall decide on accommodations and exceptions to the General Education Policy that other programs may need. (See the next section.) Colleges, institutes and centers may offer, a course for general education one time, prior to review by COGE, only if the following conditions are met:

- All such courses proposed for general education will first be reviewed and approved by the appropriate department or college curriculum committees. This review must, if relevant, include consideration of the required documentation of consultation with other impacted departments, colleges and programs;
- No such courses may be offered as special or variable topics courses. All such courses must be offered under a dedicated course number;
- The second time the course is offered for general education credit, it must have gone through the full curriculum approval process, including COGE review.

It also shall assist the University community in carrying out its responsibilities to the General Education Policy. Most importantly, the COGE shall evaluate the success of the general education program in meeting its goals and recommend improvements to the USC.

Hearit noted that in the future we may want more flexibility in course numbering than this policy requires. Aravamuthan moved approval of the above proposal as amended, seconded by Kritzman. Motion carried.

*Selection of USC Faculty Member to Serve on the Faculty Senate's
School of Medicine Task Force*

Ferrin has volunteered to serve on this task force. The council approved this by acclamation.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Kent Baldner