

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 13 November 2012, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center**

Members present: K. Ackerson, A. Anderson, N. Andreadis, R. Aravamuthan, J. Atkin, K. Baldner, K. Hillenbrand, M. Kritzman, D. Reinhold, D. Sachs, A. Salvaggio, C. Thralls, G. Whitehurst **Absent without substitution:** V. Torano, D. Walcott **Guest:** Marilyn Duke, Director, Academic Resource Center **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, Associate Dean, Extended University Programs

Procedural Items

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Atkin moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Sachs. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Aravamuthan moved approval of the minutes of 9 October 2012, seconded by Ackerson. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Anderson introduced new member JoAnn Atkin from Marketing. Anderson also mentioned attending the Senate meeting earlier this month, where this council sponsored a forum on General Education. Anderson thanked Dave Reinhold for his work in making this happen.

Action Items

Extended University Programs – Change the name of the Student Integrated Curriculum major to University Studies [EUP 3-12]

Betty Dennis, from EUP, addressed the council regarding this proposal. Today's proposal arises out of discussions with this council going back several years. The university has offered a program in General University Studies since 1973. There are two majors within this program, the Student Integrated Curriculum, and the Student Planned Curriculum. This proposal would change the name of the first of these majors to "University Studies," which is the same as the department's name. (They have already received approval to change the name of the program to "University Studies.") The title of the "Student Planned Curriculum" will remain the same. This will provide a clearer description to both students considering this

major and potential employers looking at a student's transcript. Atkin moved acceptance of this proposal, seconded by Thralls. Motion carried.

Department of Computer Science – Reorganize the Computer Science-Theory and Analysis major program and rename it Computer Science [CEAS-13-12-CS]

Dave Reinhold spoke on behalf of this proposal. Computer Science is a rapidly changing field, and the existing program has not changed in a number of years. This change is meant to keep up with the changing field and changes in criteria for accreditation. This change in the program will involve a number of new courses and deletion of some existing ones. There is a concurrent request to eliminate the "Computer Science--General" major. Aravamuthan moved acceptance of this proposal (with editorial changes) seconded by Andreadis. Motion carried.

Delete the Computer Science-General program and major [CEAS-13-13-CS]

This request is part of the larger reorganization of the Computer Science program discussed in the previous motion. Removing this major will remove student confusion caused by the two existing majors. The department expects that most students who would have enrolled in this major will enroll instead in the new major previously approved. Andreadis moved acceptance of this proposal, seconded by Atkin. Motion carried.

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences – Delete the Technology and Design major [CoEHD-314]

The curriculum proposal indicates there are currently no students enrolled in this program, and the Michigan Department of Education has eliminated the Technology and Design major from the Career and Technical Education teacher preparations program. Aravamuthan moved acceptance of this proposal, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action Items

Intellectual Skills Advisory Committee Reactivation

Marilyn Duke spoke to this council last month about reactivating this committee. USC recommended specific proposals for how this committee should be re-structured. Duke addressed the council about draft language of the charge and membership of this committee. The council asked questions and made suggestions for changes to this draft. This led to a far-reaching discussion of intellectual skills and General Education. There was a suggestion that we need a campus-wide discussion about improving student's writing skills. Kritzman moved, seconded by Hillenbrand, approval of re-establishing the Intellectual Skills Advisory Committee, with suggested changes to the proposed charges and membership. Motion carried.

*Academic Program Review and Planning Procedure
(appended to 9 October minutes)*

Andreadis addressed the council regarding this draft. It represents a serious effort to establish an effective and transparent method for reviewing the effectiveness of academic programs. Discussion suggested that not all faculty were aware of the existence of this proposal, and that steps should be taken to ensure that it is brought to the attention of all faculty. The council asked that the Provost's Office directly inform all faculty of this proposal, and that various faculty bodies (Faculty Senate, departments, etc.) be encouraged to examine it to solicit comments and suggestions.

*Response from the Committee to Oversee General Education
re: Skills Proposed in the Academic Strategic Plan*

COGE reported that all but two of the skills proposed in the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan were represented in either Proficiencies or Distribution Areas of the current General Education Policy. The two skills identified as "gaps" were "Environmental Sustainability" and "Information Literacy."

*Report from David Reinhold regarding the recent USC
Forum on General Education*

Reinhold reported that he received valuable suggestions after the Forum. The intent of the Forum was to begin a campus-wide discussion of how we think about General Education. Reinhold would like this group to suggest a strategy for continuing this campus-wide discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner