

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 4 December 2012, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: K. Ackerson, A. Anderson, R. Aravamuthan, K. Baldner, K. Hillenbrand, D. Reinhold, D. Sachs, C. Thralls, V. Torano, D. Walcott, G. Whitehurst **Absent without substitution:** N. Andreadis, J. Atkin, M. Kritzman, A. Salvaggio **Guest:** Michael Tarn, Chair, Business Information Systems **Also present:** Janice Anderson, Faculty Senate Office; Jeanine Bartholomew, academic advising liaison; Betty Dennis, Extended University Programs

Procedural Items

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

Acceptance of Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

Thralls moved approval of the minutes of 13 November 2012, seconded by Ackerson. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Anderson noted that Kritzman sends her regrets at not being able to attend today. Anderson has received the revised charge for the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee that we approved last month (subject to minor revisions). Anderson approved the new charges since they accommodated our suggestions.

Action Item – Curriculum Proposal

Department of Business Information Systems: Delete the eBizD major, which has been subsumed into the eBusiness Marketing Major Information System track [HCoB 1712]

Mike Tarn (BIS) addressed the council regarding this proposal. The eBizD major has had low enrollments in recent years. This proposal would delete the major, which has been replaced by the "Information Systems" track within the eBusiness Marketing Major. The eBusiness Design Minor will remain. Aravamuthan moved approval of this proposal, seconded by Sachs. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action Items

Follow up to General Education Forum – David Reinhold

Reinhold spoke to the council about some of the highlights of the recent Faculty Senate Forum on General Education. During the forum (and again for us), Reinhold reviewed the current General Education requirements. He compared the General Education requirements with the "Educational Skills" outlined in the University's Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. There is some "disconnect" between these, i.e. our General Education policy does not cover all the "outcomes" our Academic Plan outlines, and these are the outcomes by which we will be evaluated by our next re-accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. One of the questions facing the university is what we will do about this. Reinhold made it clear that the "outcomes" described in the Strategic Plan are not set in stone. Rather, what we need to accomplish is ensuring that our General Education policies are consistent with whatever "outcomes" our Strategic Plan sets as goals. A real practical concern is how we engage the entire university community in an informed discussion of these concerns. What we are really addressing is the nature of the kind of education we want to provide for our students.

Medical School Task Force Update

Kathryn Hillenbrand reported on the first meeting of the Medical School Task Force. (Hillenbrand is this council's representative on that task force.) The most pressing concern right now for the medical school was research opportunities, as these are needed for accreditation. One of the concerns discussed was finding ways to increase collaboration between WMU and the medical school. Hillenbrand discussed possible ways to facilitate this kind of collaboration.

Council Charges

Shawn Tenney from Service Learning will attend our January meeting to provide information regarding our charge to devise a university-wide definition of service learning.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner