

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 8 December 2015, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: R. Aravamuthan, J. Atkin, Suzan Ayers (for D. Walcott), K. Baldner, Carrie Cumming (for C. Tremblay), T. Fischman, K. Hillenbrand, C. Koretsky, Megan Grunert Kowalske (for J. Cousins), M. Kritzman, D. Reinhold, D. Sachs, E. Schleis

Absent without substitution: K. Ackerson, A. Anderson, L. Coons, G. Whitehurst

Guests: Alexander Cannon, School of Music; Mike Tarn, Chair, Department of Business Information Systems; Tom Rienzo, Business Information Systems; Andrew Kline, Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering; Kapseong Ro, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Also present: Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate; Connor Smith, Western Student Association; David Paul, Department of Philosophy and Professional Instructors Organization

Procedural Items

Faculty Senate Executive Board Representative Suzan Ayers called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Atkin moved acceptance of the agenda (with a slight change in the order), seconded by Sachs. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Aravamuthan moved approval of the minutes of 10 November 2015, seconded by Atkin. Motion carried.

Chair's Remarks

Ayers passed on remarks from Chair M. Kritzman, who will be here shortly. Kritzman wanted the council to know that there are concerns from WMU-AAUP about the University's plans to have all faculty courses evaluated by the Instructor and Course Evaluation System in the spring semester.

Action/Discussion Items

1. Review of Curriculum Proposals

- a. Department of Business Information Systems [HCOB 3115] Establish A new major in Business Analytics – Mike Tarn and Tom Rienzo

Tarn and Rienzo addressed the council. This curriculum change would create a Business Analytics (BA) major in the Haworth College of Business. The major will be administered in the Department of Business Information Systems with the assistance of the Department of Statistics to support two elective courses. Today's business data come in many different formats, from a great variety of sources, in large magnitudes of scale, and flow at increasingly accelerated rates. Data-savvy functional specialists are in high demand in business, and analytics skills provide a foundation of success in many business disciplines. This is the reason several key organizations have been advocating the inclusion of business analytics in the business college. The proposed Business Analytics major will fill the gap of business analytics skills and competencies that are key to the success of today's businesses. Koretsky moved approval of this proposal, seconded by Atkin. Motion carried (with one abstention).

- b. Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering [CEAS 15-001-CHP] Establish an Accelerated Graduate Degree Program in Chemical Engineering – Andy Kline

Kline addressed the council. The current graduate program in Chemical Engineering (CHEG) at WMU began in 2012 and has now reached a stable enrollment of 15 to 18 students [composed of the M.S. in Engineering (Chemical) and the Ph.D. degree Engineering track offered by the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences], with 6 to 8 graduates per year. The number of undergraduates in Chemical Engineering has been steadily increasing, and is over 230 for fall 2015. The AGDP in Chemical Engineering will provide a mechanism for motivated undergraduate research students and other interested students in the undergraduate program to complete an M.S. degree in a timely fashion. The AGDP will provide an additional pool of students to enroll in graduate courses, which may allow the department to offer graduate courses more often while still meeting graduate course enrollment targets. The AGDP will assist the department in meeting its M.S. degree program capacity goal. Hillenbrand moved approval of the proposal, seconded by Koretsky. Motion carried.

- c. Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering [CEAS 15-042R-MAE] Develop an Accelerated Graduate Degree Program in the Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering degree program – Kapseong Ro

Ro addressed the council. This proposed improvement is to develop an accelerated graduate degree program (AGDP) in the Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering degree program (MSAE-AGDP). The accelerated Bachelor's/Master's degree program allows undergraduate students in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering an opportunity to complete the requirements for both the Bachelor's and Master's degrees at an accelerated pace. These undergraduate students may count up to 9 (but not less than 6) credit hours of 5000 level courses taken during their undergraduate studies toward a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering within 24 months of completing their Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering or Aerospace Engineering. Students in MSAE-AGDP may choose to pursue a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering under either the Thesis Option or the Non-Thesis Option. This program will allow the MAE department to provide an incentive for good quality undergraduate students to attend the MSAE program. This initiative will improve our graduate enrollment numbers. In addition, this can be used as a recruiting tool for attracting good undergraduate students. Aravamuthan moved approval of this proposal, seconded by Atkin. Motion carried.

At approximately 3:45 p.m. Chair Kritzman arrived and assumed the chair.

2. Progress Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education – Bruce Ferrin, Chair

Ferrin reported to the council about the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education. Ferrin explained that the desire of the committee was to “merge” existing Gen Ed proficiencies with content areas. Another proposed change would be to use “big questions” to help frame and organize the core of courses. There is also a suggestion to make the “First Year Experience” a required course, where these “big questions” could first be introduced. Finally, no one on the committee likes the term “General Education.” The current favorite to replace the term “General Education” is “Western Essential Studies.” Council members are asked to communicate their questions and opinions to the Faculty Senate Office.

3. Review of Curriculum Proposal – School of Music [M5.15-16] Establish a new degree, Bachelor of Musical Arts (BMA) **tabled on 10 November** – Alexander Cannon

The November minutes explain the details of this proposal. It was tabled at that meeting because of questions raised about the degree of specificity about the learning outcomes for the proposed major. Cannon explained the new

more specific learning outcomes incorporated into the major. A motion to take the original motion “off the table” and approve it was made by Aravamuthan, seconded by Koretsky. Motion carried.

4. Report from the Subcommittee on 5000+ Course Issue

The committee reported its recommendation to the council. The committee recommended the following language, “All 5000 level courses at WMU shall be taught as graduate-level courses. These courses shall be available to graduate students and advanced undergraduate students. An advanced undergraduate student is: a junior level or above (as defined by completed credit hours) and is in good academic standing.” Baldner moved we send this as a Memorandum of Action to the Faculty Senate, seconded by Ayers. Motion passed with 3 in favor, 0 against, and 6 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Baldner