

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Tuesday, 17 January 2017, 3 p.m.
Room 205 (International Room), Bernhard Center

Members present: K. Ackerson, A. Anderson, J. Baas, L. Coons, T. Curran, B. Ferrin (for J. Atkin), K. Hillenbrand, M. Kritzman, D. Paul, D. Reinhold, D. Sachs, G. Whitehurst; E. Martini

Absent without substitution: S. Carlson; B. Drummer, T. Hall, T. Fischman

Guests: James Cousins, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Bryce Dickey, Family and Consumer Sciences; Marilyn Duke, Academic Resource Center; Donald Meyer, Chair, Economics; Vivian Steemers, World Languages and Literatures

Procedural / Informational Items

Call to Order

Council Chair Marilyn Kritzman called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Anderson moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Ackerson. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Anderson moved to approve the minutes of 6 December 2016 as they stand, seconded by Whitehurst. Motion carried.

Chair's Comments – Marilyn Kritzman

Kritzman addressed the council. The Web link to summary notes from the 12 January 2017 Faculty Senate meeting was provided.
<http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2017/FSnotes.01-12-17.pdf>.
The Transfer of Credit Committee's proposed Provisional Acceptance Policy Report was accepted by the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

Discussion/Action Items

Curricular Proposals

1. [CAS 16-152 WLL] Proposal to create a Classical Studies Minor, originally tabled at the 12 April 2016 meeting. Vivian Steemers addressed the council. The minor is designed to attract students who are more interested in intellectual and cultural foundations of Classical culture than in specific language study. Whitehurst moved to approve the proposal to create a Classical Studies Minor, Baas seconded. Motion carried.
2. [CAS 17-81 ECON] Add a secondary education economics minor and the "CA" (stand-alone) economics endorsement. Don Meyers and James Cousins addressed the council. The proposal will better prepare those who will be teaching economics in the

middle/high school (6-12), through more content knowledge via this minor. USC was not provided letters of support from Political Science, Geography and Education. Baas moved to approve the secondary education economics minor, pending receipt of supporting documents, Ackerson seconded. Motion carried.

3. [CEHD 767A] Change name of Family Life Education minor to Family Studies. The need to change number of credit hours from 30 to 24 and revised list of required courses are not addressed by USC. Bryce Dickey addressed the council regarding the need for the name change. Whitehurst moved to approve the proposed change in name of the minor, Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

Informational/Discussion/Action Items

1. Selection of member to serve on the Committee on University Strategic Planning (CUSP). Baas will serve as primary representative from USC, with Paul as back-up. Sachs moved to approve Baas as USC representative on CUSP, seconded by Ackerson. Motion carried.
2. Acceptance of resignation of James Cousins from USC, as he is a new associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Baas moved to approve resignation of James Cousins, Whitehurst seconded. Motion carried.
3. MOA-16/13 Revise Undergraduate Non-degree Certificate Programs Reinhold addressed the council on behalf of Provost Tim Greene. The provost is concerned that a student will earn major and certificate while working on a major, and recommends the statement, "Once a bachelor's degree is awarded, a certificate that is wholly embedded in the bachelor's degree will not be awarded." A student who completes a certificate, and then completes the major, will be awarded the certificate and the bachelor's degree. The provost has concern about getting two "credentials" within one bachelor's degree. There was much discussion about the definition of "wholly embedded" and whether or not this policy would create an obstacle for students; shouldn't be closing off options for students.

USC will address this agenda item in the February USC meeting. Reinhold, Baas and Whitehurst will meet with the provost to discuss the wording he recommended; Martini will provide written input for this meeting.
4. Review and approve Intellectual Skills Development Program (ISDP) Report on 2016 Cohort Test Results. Marilyn Duke addressed the council. ISDP Advisory Committee is working on placement grid for SAT; will come to USC in the future with updates. A change was made reflecting that graduate assistants and part-time instructors, rather than

upper-level undergraduates, will be teaching some of the remedial courses. Baas moved to accept the report as presented, Sachs seconded. Motion carried.

5. Plagiarism.

There was discussion about how to disseminate the information to students. Identified freshman orientation, First Year Experience, General Education courses (communication and writing courses) as opportunities to review the information with students. Emphasized need to consider cultural differences in understanding plagiarism. May want to have conversations with Educational Design committee, First Year Experience, Admissions, Freshman Orientation staff about disseminating information about plagiarism. USC will move this recommendation forward.

Related to plagiarism, the council discussed students' right to appeal a penalty when a student commits academic misconduct and instructor of record assigns the penalty. It was discussed that faculty should have plagiarism policy clearly stated on each syllabus, to protect themselves. There is a potential need for discussion about the level of authority of instructors when handling plagiarism; e.g., if a graduate assistant (vs faculty instructor) is teaching the course in which misconduct occurs, is the GA authorized to assess penalty?

Kritzman will contact Graduate Studies Council regarding the plagiarism policy, regarding USC recommendations for dissemination of information to students and USC role, if any, in disseminating information to faculty, i.e., course syllabus template.

Another follow-up item was to gather data from the Office of Student Conduct regarding instances of student misconduct. [*Update 1/23/17: Ackerson attended Professional Concerns Committee (PCC) meeting, held after USC's 1/17/17 meeting. PCC collects minimal information regarding charges. PCC may address the issue related to appeals.*]

6. 2016-17 Council Charges – not addressed in this meeting.

Other

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Baas, supported by Whitehurst. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hillenbrand

Kathryn Hillenbrand, Secretary