

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

February 21, 2007

3:00 – 5:00 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Daniel E. Collins, Marcia E. Farr, Richard P. Gunther, E. Kay Halasek, Nancy R. Reynolds, W. Randy Smith (Vice-Chair), George J. Valco, and Brian L. Winer (Chair)

Student Members: Rose Babington and Elaine Yeh (Undergraduate Student Government), Jane Evans (Council of Graduate Students), and Sheila Rajashekara (Inter-professional Council)

Guests: Professor Edward H. Adelson, Associate Executive Dean and Dr. Linda Schoen, Assistant Executive Dean Curriculum, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar, Office of University Registrar; Professor Anthony Mughan, Department of Political Science and Director, Undergraduate International Studies Program; Professor Neil Baker, Department of Microbiology.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2007

- Collins moved approval of the Minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2007. Valco seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR BRIAN L. WINER

- There were no comments from the Chair

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE-CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- The proposal to abolish the Center for Survey Research was approved by the University Senate on February 8, 2007. The proposal will be on the March 2, 2007 agenda of the Board of Trustees.
- Received a request to use ‘center’ for Diabetes from the College of Medicine. Smith asked if the Council had any objection to this request. There was none. If they want to establish an academic center, they will have to submit a proposal and undergo the usual review.

Smith had a conversation with Professor Terry Conlisk, Chair of University Research Committee (URC), to identify who should be on the ad hoc committee to review the current Center Guidelines. Conlisk will send the names of individuals from the URC that will be part of the ad hoc committee.

- Professor Stephanie Davidson, Department of Speech and Hearing Science has been running the University Re-accreditation for the Office of Academic Affairs. An 11-member site evaluation team will be visiting the University April 16-18, 2007. They will issue a report a month after their visit.
- Smith informed the Council that OSU has been invited to become a founding member of the National Center for Academic Transformation's Redesign Alliance. The goal is to identify a small number of low-level large-enrollment courses that could benefit from redesign based on learning outcomes and different learning styles. The courses are likely to be in Humanities, Biological Sciences, and Mathematical and Physical Sciences. A representative from the department of the chosen course will have the opportunity to meet with colleagues throughout the country who have successfully redesigned that same course on their campuses and discuss how best to implement the redesign here. Smith will lead this initiative and has just been appointed to the national advisory board. In the first round, a few courses will be targeted for redesign.

PROPOSAL TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO *DOUBLE MAJOR IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES* – PROFESSOR NANCY R. RENOLDS, CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE A

Reynolds gave an overview of the proposal. Subcommittee A reviewed the proposal carefully and had few questions for Professor Anthony Mughan, Director of the program. When the Subcommittee requested concurrence letters from departments participating in this program, Mughan indicated that since this is a revision to the existing program, he did not think there was a need for concurrence letters. The Subcommittee had a concern about the impact of the impending changes to the General Education Curriculum (GEC) on the 196 hours. Mughan responded that they will utilize the “double major overlap” rule to take care of the time to graduation because 3 courses are permitted to be used in both majors. The Subcommittee was satisfied with the response from Mughan and they recommend approval of this proposal.

DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR ANTHONY MUGHAN, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND DIRECTOR, UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Mughan gave a summary of the proposal. What is International Studies? Mughan indicated that the International Studies program is an interdisciplinary program in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences (ASC) without any faculty except himself. Students take courses from

other departments and colleges. The major requires an additional 10 hours of foreign language courses beyond ASC requirements. The two majors must be in different subject matters; students must meet the requirements for each major set by the unit(s) offering the majors; each major must contain at least 30 hours not contained in the other. Overlap with the GEC is permitted where appropriate. If one or more majors are in the humanities or the social sciences, more than one course from the area of the major may count toward the GEC requirement in the humanities or social sciences. Students can pursue Development Studies and Latin American Studies with a minor in Spanish; International Relations and Diplomacy and Middle East Studies with a minor in Arabic; Security Intelligence and East Asian Studies with a minor in Korean; and World Economy and Business and West European Studies with a minor in Korean. It is a B.A. program and students are allowed to major in two tracks. Since the double major requires 20 hours of courses in a language, students also receive a minor that gives them a more well-rounded education. The double major also gives a good interdisciplinary training. This proposal is not designed to increase student enrollments. The double major will attract better students. The program has an advisory committee that reviewed the proposal.

How is this program marketed to students? They participate in the Summer freshman orientation program and educate students about the double major.

What will be on the transcript? The two specializations will be on the transcript, for example, specialization in International Relations and Diplomacy and specialization in Middle East Studies and a minor in Spanish.

Smith recommended that a copy of the proposal be sent to the Colleges of Business and Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences.

Subcommittee A moved approval of the proposal. It was seconded by Halasek. The motion passed unanimously.

**PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE
MINOR IN *SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*-
PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D**

Winer gave a summary of the proposal. The proposed interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in *Societal Perspectives in Science and Technology* requires completion of 25 credit hours. Students must successfully complete a foundational course and one of four core courses. The remaining credit hours may be taken from a range of advanced courses. Elective coursework must come from at least two different departments. Depending on their interests and goals for the minor, students may choose to take advanced courses in a particular topic of specialization to complement a major, or across specializations to achieve a breadth across topics as well as disciplines.

Although the proposal requires that students may not take more than two courses at the 200-level to ensure depth coverage, the minor sheet does not have such a statement.

The concerns from Engineering that the minor does not demand technology courses and the minor should include ENG 367 were not addressed. It is suggested that ENG 367 be added to the course list.

There were also concerns raised about using a second writing course in the minor. It was felt that using second writing course in a minor may dilute the content of the second writing course.

DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR NEIL BAKER, DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND DR. LINDA SCHOEN, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DEAN, COLLEGES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

Baker and Schoen gave an overview of the interdisciplinary minor. The proposed interdisciplinary minor will enable students to investigate, from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, the ways science and technology interact with other aspects of society and culture. The field of Science, Technology, and Society is a recognized academic discipline. This field is represented in a curricular form presently by the existing undergraduate major concentration in Science Studies in the Department of Comparative Studies. The proposed minor parallels curricular offerings in Science, Technology, and Society at other peer institutions such as the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Texas. An invitation to participate in the development of this proposed minor was sent to all chairs and undergraduate studies chairs within the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. The structure and curriculum of the minor were developed by a group of interested faculty and undergraduate students from the departments of Chemistry, Comparative Studies, Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, Geological Sciences, History, Microbiology, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, and Sociology, as well as the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. There was an oversight committee that reviewed the proposal. This minor targets non-science majors and does not imply competency in science or technological disciplines.

Did you consider adding ENG 367 as requested by the College of Engineering in its response? They were willing to do so after reviewing the syllabus.

Subcommittee D moved approval contingent upon inclusion of ENG 367. The motion was seconded by Reynolds. The motion carried with two opposed and with 1 abstention.

DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION – PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH – SUBCOMMITTEE D

- **181 Hours**

Adelson gave an update on the status of the proposal for 181 hours for graduation for the B.A. and B.S. degrees in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. Adelson noted that at its December 2006 meeting, the Arts and Sciences' Senate had discussed a proposal to reduce the hours to graduation for the Bachelor of Arts degree, from 191 to 181 hours. At that time it was argued that the Senate needed to see possible proposals for changes in the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree.

An ad hoc committee chaired by Professor David Andereck, Associate Dean, College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, subsequently had issued a report to the Arts and Sciences (ASC) Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CCI), and the CCI had unanimously endorsed a new B.S. template that also could lead to a 181 hour graduation.

The Task Force deliberation process began in Autumn 2006 with surveys of B.S. programs within the University and of CIC institutions. They examined the existing definitions of B.S. and B.A. and established a preliminary template. The Task Force also surveyed the B.S. programs for their reactions to the template and possible additional changes, and met with Professor Diane Birchbichler, Director, Foreign Language Center to discuss the foreign language requirements. They presented their recommendations to the ASC CCI.

Andereck indicated that B.S. degrees exist in the sciences, social sciences, and professional colleges. They are typically more narrowly focused than the B.A. with goals of imparting rigorous quantitative skills and a deep grounding in science and technology. Typically more major requirements are needed to prepare students for entry into specific disciplinary careers. The current B.S. template is between a B.A. - a broad classical liberal arts degree - and the even more intensely focused B.S. degrees awarded in the professional schools, with elements of both.

The critical difference in learning objectives when a discipline offers both the B.S. and B.A. degrees is, typically that the B.S. degrees require more depth in the major and more pre-major courses to provide the best preparation for graduate or professional work in the discipline. However, a B.A. degree targets students who go into areas (law, medicine, business) where less emphasis is on preparation in the major and in quantitative skills.

The B.A. GEC expectations encourage a very broad exposure to the various areas of scholarship in the Arts and Sciences. The B.S. degree typically has heavier science and mathematics requirements, which are often sequential in nature and concentrated in extensive pre-major requirements.

The B.S template requires 10 hours in Quantitative and Logical Analysis, 10 hours in Writing Related Skills and 15 hours of Foreign Languages under the Skills area; under the Breadth

area, 20 hours of Natural Science courses, 10 hours of Social Sciences, 10 hours of Arts and Humanities and 10 hours of student-selected Breadth courses; and 10 hours of Historical Study. The B.S. template does not require courses in Issues of the Contemporary World and students can choose 3 overlap courses as prescribed in the current GEC under Diversity Experiences. Programs that require mathematics beyond 152, and some required science courses approved as GEC, may count as one of the two student-selected Breadth courses. As per CCI action on the Task Force recommendations, Language 104 can count as one of the two student-selected courses.

The structural changes proposed remove the need for Drop-a-GEC option.

The original expectation was for the B.S. to align with the B.A degree requirements and to reduce the graduation requirement to 181 hours. For the B.A. degree the net reduction came from 5 hours from the General Education Curriculum (GEC) and 5 hours from electives. In the proposed B.S. template that emerged from the ad hoc committee and the CCI, issues about dropping a foreign language requirement (the 104 course) and adding a mathematics component to the “breadth” requirement emerged. There was a strong negative reaction from the foreign language departments to this proposal.

The ASC Senate will act on the B.S. template and the hours to degree proposals on February 28, 2007.

In the interim, Smith has convened two separate meetings with the Health Sciences colleges (February 23) and the professional colleges (February 27) to give them an update on the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta