

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 Bricker Hall

February 4, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Faculty:

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| ✓ Dr. Lawrence A. Baum (Political Science) | ✓ Dr. Marcia E. Farr (Teaching and Learning) |
| Dr. Neelima M. Bendapudi (Marketing and Logistics) | ✓ Dr. Jay S. Hobgood (Geography) |
| Dr. James W. Cogdell (Mathematics) | ✓ Dr. Michael Ibba (Microbiology) |
| ✓ Dr. Kathryn A. Corl, (Germanic Languages and Literatures) | ✓ Dr. Daniel A. Mendelsohn (Mechanical Engineering) |
| | ✓ Dr. Robert J. Ward (Music) |

Students:

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| Mr. Robert D. Calhoun (CGS, History of Art) | ✓ Ms. Sarah K. Douglas (CGS, History) |
| | Mr. Benjamin T. Reinke (USG, Physcs) |

Administrators:

- ✓ Dr. W. Randy Smith, (Academic Affairs), Vice Chair

Guests:

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| Mr. John E. Dickhaut (Office of the University Registrar) | Mr. David E. Roy (Director, Enrollment Services) |
| Dr. Terry L. Gustafson (Arts and Sciences) | |

The Council came to order at 3:00 PM.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR—PROFESSOR DANIEL A. MENDELSON

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR — PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

W. Randy Smith reported that the ad-hoc committee on semesters did not meet last week, but that the committee is looking at what a semester might look like. The committee remains on track to send a recommendation to the University Senate at its meeting on March 12, 2009.

Smith recently returned from Chicago where he attended a Higher Learning Commission think tank that looked at alternative methods of conducting accreditation. The group particularly examined ways to reduce the bureaucracy involved, to better work with different institutions and their different missions, and to develop alternate models for accreditation.

Smith and Associate Provost Alexis Collier have a meeting scheduled with the faculty leadership on student learning outcomes assessment. He will report on that discussion at a later Council meeting. The Ohio Board of Regents is hosting a statewide conference in June 2009 on assessment that Smith and others from the University will attend.

There are several undergraduate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiatives underway including the writing of a grant proposals for Choose Ohio First Scholarships, through the Ohio Board of Regents, and another that would provide scholarships in niche STEM areas – the Woodrow Wilson Ohio STEM Teaching Fellowships.

Smith also reported that the Board of Trustees at its meeting on February 6, 2009, will approve the naming of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. The new name will be the William G. Lowrie Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering in recognition of a gift to the University.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D—PROFESSORS DANIEL A. MENDELSON AND W. RANDY SMITH

- **Revision to RN to BSN direct enrollment admission criteria, College of Nursing**

Mendelson presented the proposal to revise the RN to BSN direct enrollment admission criteria. The current criteria rely on state licensure. The revised criteria will require transcripts which are easier to verify.

The motion was seconded by Douglas and approved by voice vote.

ITEMS FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS—PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith presented revisions to the Academic Organization and Curriculum Handbook on the new guidelines on centers and syllabus requirements for course requests.

The section on the guidelines on centers was drafted to revise the information in the Handbook to reflect the revisions to the rule on centers that was approved by the University Senate last year. The new guidelines provide also provide greater clarity on the review process.

Hobgood moved to approve the guidelines on centers with minor edits. The motion was seconded by Farr and approved by voice vote.

The Council discussed the merits of providing guidance on syllabus content and requiring minimum standards as part of the course approval process. The consensus was that the Curriculum Handbook should provide a template that reflects best practices. The template under discussion provides the basic course information that students need to know. This specific guidance will enable course requests to move through the approval process more rapidly.

The Council recommended a few changes in the introductory paragraph. Smith will take this proposed language to a meeting with curricular contacts for their feedback and return to the Council with a final recommendation for approval.

DISCUSSION ON UNDERGRADUATE MINORS

The Council held a brief discussion on the issues that need to be reviewed in the consideration of university-wide standards/approval for undergraduate minors. Several questions emerged. Should there be university-wide guidelines, and if so, of what nature? What sort of guidelines should there be for Honors minors? What should the process for approving minors be? How many students are in which minors?

Mendelsohn will summarize the discussion and charge a subcommittee to review the topic and report back to the Council with a recommendation.

Terry L. Gustafson, Associate Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, reported that Arts and Sciences is working on a proposal on honors minors. The proposal is currently before the Honors Committee and should come before the Council in Spring quarter.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted

W. Randy Smith
J. Briggs Cormier