

# **COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**1039 DERBY HALL**

**February 7, 2007**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

## **MINUTES**

### **Present:**

**Professors:** Sheryl A. Barringer, Daniel E. Collins, Lora Gingerich Dobos, 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 (Undergraduate Student Government)

**Guests:** Dr. Linda Schoen, Assistant Executive Dean and Jessica Mercerhill, Director of Curriculum, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar, Office of University Registrar; David Roy, Senior Assistant Director, Enrollment Services, Undergraduate Admissions; Professor Margaret Teaford, School of Allied Medical Professions; Professor Catherine Calder, Department of Statistics; Professor Morton O’Kelly, Chair, Department of Geography; Professors Linda Lobao and Catherine Rakowski, Department of Human and Community Resource Development; and Professor Elliot Slotnick, Associate Dean, Graduate School

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

- Gunther moved approval of the Minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2007. Babington seconded the motion and it carried with three abstentions.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR BRIAN L. WINER**

- There were no comments from the Chair

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

- Smith distributed a copy of a letter from David Andrews, Dean, College of Education and Human Ecology that had just been received, supporting the proposal to increase the GPA admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition (as approved by this Council on January 17, 2007). Smith now will work with Professor Mark Failla, Chair, on an implementation date.

- Professor Sharon Hamilton, Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI), Chair, Site Review Team for our institutional re-accreditation process for the Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association of Colleges and Universities, visited today in preparation for the site visit April 15-18, 2007. Smith and others hosted her.
- The proposal from the School of Public Health to obtain college status and the proposal to create a Center for Family Research were approved by the Board of Trustees on February 2, 2007. The Trustees commented on the theoretical and research mix of the Center for Family Research and questioned the relationship between seeking college status and doctoral program investment.
- The proposal to abolish the Center for Survey Research is on the February 8, 2007 University Senate Agenda.
- Proposal for the Center for Study of Religion and Institute for Women, Gender and Public Policy are ready to be reviewed. Smith indicated that the Council needs to review the Center Guidelines. The Office of Research, the University Research Committee (URC), and the Senate leadership are concerned about the oversight of centers/institutes. On February 5, 2007, Professors Patrick Osmer, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Allan Silverman, Chair, and Robert Perry, Chair-Elect of Faculty Council, Terry Conlisk, Chair, URC, Robert McGrath, Vice President for Research, and Smith met to discuss ways to streamline the process to approve centers.

Smith summarized the recommendations from an ad hoc committee of this Council chaired by Professor John Wilkins (Physics) that proposed a new process for approval. Centers embedded fully within a college or ones based on substantial external funding would not need to go through the current elaborate Council-based process. The provost and this Council would simply be informed of their establishment. Interdisciplinary centers, such as the Kirwan Institute, and/or ones that have central funding would need to go through some version of the current process. The additional issue is the periodic review of those centers once they are established. It has recently been suggested that perhaps the URC, and not this Council, should be the governance body that is responsible.

Smith indicated that an ad hoc committee to review the current Center Guidelines needs to be established immediately. Gunther and Reynolds will be members, as will Professor Electra Paskett, former Council member, and several members of the URC. Once the full membership of the committee is known the charge letter will be distributed to Council members for review. This committee should also recommend whether centers created prior to the current guidelines/rules should undergo a review process by this Council.

Smith noted that the current process of Council letting units use the term center or institute as an umbrella term for clinical activities, or as a mechanism to help initiatives secure external funding, has been well-received and will continue.

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN AGING – PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH – SUBCOMMITTEE D**

Winer noted that this proposal had been discussed at the previous Council meeting. There were some issues about the hours to complete the minor. The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education has established standards that were followed in the development of this minor, including a minimum of 21 – 27 hours. This is not consistent with the minor requirement of 20 hours as proposed in this minor. Why are there no courses in Nutrition?

**DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR MARGARET TEAFORD, SCHOOL OF ALLIED MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, AND DR. LINDA SCHOEN, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DEAN, COLLEGES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.**

Schoen and Teaford gave an overview of the proposal. The goal of this interdisciplinary undergraduate minor is to provide students with a broad-based understanding of the field of gerontology. This field, by its very nature, is interdisciplinary encompassing such disciplines as psychology, education, biology, anthropology, sociology, social work, law, religious studies, and medical and health fields. Students interested in this field come from a variety of backgrounds working with families. This minor will give more opportunity to learn about aging. The proposal was shared with various student groups and feedback was solicited.

Although the established standards for minor curricula by the Association of Gerontology were followed in the development of the minor, this minor requires completion of 20 hours of course work, but the association requires a minimum of 21 to 27 credit hours.

Teaford and Schoen noted that these students are not seeking certification in this field and that the standards established by the Association of Gerontology were used only as a guideline to develop this aging minor.

Why are there no courses from Nutrition included in the list of courses? They tried to cast widely for courses and none from nutrition were suggested. They now will consider including nutrition courses.

Council members wanted to know why they would not give students the opportunity to get a certification in the field by increasing the credit hours to 21. They “could” increase the minimum hours to 21, but they wanted to make it flexible for medical and nursing

students. A number of professional students take advantage of the graduate specialization. Other students can take extra hours to receive certification. Such an option will be made clear from the beginning.

Subcommittee D moved approval. It was seconded by Collins and carried unanimously.

### **PROPOSAL FOR A GRADUATE INTERDISCIPLINARY SPECIALIZATION IN GEOSPATIAL DATA AND ANALYSIS - PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D**

Winer gave a summary of the proposal. Job opportunities are growing in the fields combining geotechnology, spatial analysis, and remote sensing. The minor consists of 21-23 hours of course work. Two courses from the three core areas are required and 14 credit hours must be taken outside the student's home department. Letters of concurrence from both the Deans of the Colleges of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and Social and Behavioral Sciences are included in the proposal. There is a request for \$15,000 to cover the expenses involved in setting up the necessary infrastructure to make this program available to the University community and provide a structure to maintain it.

### **DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR CATHERINE CALDER, DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND PROFESSOR MORTON O'KELLY, CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

O'Kelly and Calder gave an overview of the proposal. Geography and Statistics have a growing collaboration in Geospatial Data and Analysis. It is a rapidly growing field. To gain specialized skills related to geospatial data and analyses, students from several departments are currently taking courses from an unofficial geospatial curriculum. The drawbacks to having this type of informal interdisciplinary curriculum include advice on course selection derived from senior students and from graduate advisors, who may not be aware of the importance of certain technical areas until their research progress is slowed while they take the time to study the topic. The lack of structure in the unofficial curriculum hampers both the efficiency and coherence of instruction. The Geospatial Data and Analysis minor consists of both required and elective courses in the core areas of geographic information systems, spatial statistics, and remote sensing, and requires 21-23 hours of coursework. Included in this proposal is a seed grant request for \$15,000 from the Graduate School to cover the expenses involved in setting up the necessary infrastructure to make this program available to the university community and provide a structure to maintain it once it is operational. Professor Elliot Slotnick, Associate Dean, Graduate School, noted that they had not received such a grant – funds were no longer available. Students will have access to software in Statistics and Geography.

Council wanted to know whether there was concurrence from the Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science because civil engineering and geodetic science courses will be used in the core as well as electives. Is

Civil Engineering aware of this proposal? O’Kelly presumed that the Department would not be opposed to use of its courses in the minor. Council members indicated that concurrence should be sought.

Subcommittee D moved approval contingent upon receipt of concurrence from the Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science. The motion was seconded by Reynolds and carried unanimously.

**PROPOSAL FOR A GRADUATE MINOR IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY –  
PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER, CHAIR AND W. RANDY SMITH, VICE  
CHAIR – SUBCOMMITTEE D**

Winer gave a summary of the proposal. The Graduate Minor in Rural Sociology will benefit graduate students from other departments who wish to improve their substantive knowledge of rural sociological theory, empirical research, processes of development and globalization, and the problems faced by people and institution in small towns, suburbs, and rural areas in the U.S. and abroad. Such training is intended to complement the chosen Ph.D. or Masters major field and will be useful for students whose majors focus on urban life or professional training. A graduate minor in Rural Sociology will introduce greater interdisciplinarity to their programs and will help them prepare for research, teaching, policy making or other employment in non-metropolitan settings and developing countries.

Students are required to successfully complete 20 credit hours of Rural Sociology classes with a minimum grade of ‘B’. All students are required to take Rural Sociology 742 as a core course. Students will choose one core course in the minor specialization and two courses from the elective list in the track. Students may take no more than one 600-level course as part of the Graduate Minor.

Letters of concurrence are included in the proposal

**DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSORS LINDA LOBAO AND CATHY RAKOWSKI,  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

Labao and Rakowski gave an overview of the proposal. The Graduate Program in Rural Sociology is located in the Department of Human and Community Resource Development. The Graduate Minor will benefit students from other departments. A Graduate Minor in Rural Sociology will introduce greater interdisciplinarity to their programs and will help them prepare for research, teaching, policy making or other employment in non-metropolitan settings and developing countries. By offering this minor, the Department will enable the rest of the campus to participate in this interdisciplinary program.

The Department was approached by the division of City and Regional Planning and the School of Educational Policy and Leadership programs to offer a graduate minor in Rural Sociology. Their students seeking employment in small towns had no knowledge of problems of rural areas. Requests from these programs and the implementation of budget restructuring motivated them to develop the Graduate Minor. They contacted each Chair and the Graduate Studies Committee Chair in these programs to get their concurrences. The greatest interest is from Educational Policy and Leadership and their graduate students are required to take it.

There was a concern about a core course being offered every other year. How will this have an impact on completion of the minor? The core course is a capstone course. There should not be a problem for students to have access to this course.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal. It was seconded by Farr and carried unanimously.

**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**

Smith 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.

Gunther gave a summary of what happened at the January 31, 2007, ASC Senate meeting. 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. Collins commented on the strong negative reaction from the foreign language departments to this proposal.

Gunther noted that, stated simply, as a result of these recommendations, students would take more mathematics and less Humanities and Social Sciences. The net reduction for the B.S. degree was substantially different from the B.A. template.

There was good discussion but considerable opposition to the CCI-supported proposal at the ASC Senate.

Smith will ask Professor Edward H. Adelson, Associate Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences to elaborate on this more fully at the next Council meeting, but noted that the ASC Senate will act on the B.S. template and the hours to degree proposals on February 28, 2007. In the interim, Smith will convene a meeting with non-ASC colleges to give them an update on the process.

Smith noted his strong belief that GEC requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degrees should not be grossly differentiated across campus, and he hoped that the outcome of this process would not produce such a result.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith  
Lakshmi Dutta