

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 20, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Sociology & Anthropology.

I. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the March 6, 2007 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.

II. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Chairperson Börger-Greco indicated that she will soon contact chairs of departments needing to hold senator elections this year.

III. Report of the Student Senate President

None

IV. Report of the Graduate Student Association

None

V. Report of the Administrative Officers

None

VI. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

AOAC

Senator White reported that a Technology Competency survey has been sent to departments for feedback regarding what this means within different academic fields. She noted that members of AOAC are available to answer questions about this.

UCPRC

Senator White noted that there were 21 proposals submitted for review at the final meeting of UCPRC. She indicated that UCPRC will try to address as many as possible and will review them according to the order they were received.

First Readings

(1) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

PSYC 212: Proposal to change prerequisite to completion of PSYC 211 with a grade of C- or higher.

(2) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

PSYC 314, 315, 316: Proposal to change prerequisite to completion of PSYC 212 with a grade of C- or higher.

GERC

Senator Warmkessel and Dr. Foster-Clark addressed questions regarding the final proposal for the Revised General Education Curriculum. Regarding the ballot language, GERC noted faculty would be given the choice of approving the revised curriculum or retaining the current curriculum. A question was raised about how the specification for elective courses being outside a student's major would affect International Studies students who take courses in a wide range of departments. GERC clarified that this is meant to include any courses other than those listed as part of the student's program.

Concern was expressed about the fact that the implementation subcommittee has not presented any plans to make the revised curriculum functional in a practical sense. GERC indicated that they have discussed implementation issues but were not able to begin without endorsement of the proposal. A question was raised about reviewing courses with respect to the new goals to ensure that we continue to meet them. Dr. Foster-Clark responded that there are plans for ongoing 5-year review of designated courses within the Gen Ed curriculum. He also indicated a need for GERC to consider options for making smaller updates to Gen Ed on a regular basis. Senator White pointed out that a periodic review for Gen Ed courses could be implemented whether or not the revised curriculum proposal is adopted.

Concerns about the writing requirements in light of the administrative realities of the 25-student cap were discussed. Senator Kevorkian shared that History would like to suggest that the requirement for "revised prose" be changed to "revisable prose" to make it more flexible, particularly for untenured faculty. She clarified that this would leave the revision process to the discretion of the individual faculty member teaching a W course. Dr. Foster-Clark responded that revision of prose can be done in more ways than direct professor editing and suggested that faculty not wishing to do writing revisions opt to have the W designation removed. He further pointed out that there are currently sufficient numbers of W courses to accommodate this since many students take more than the minimum number of W courses. Dr. Warmkessel stressed the fact that there was strong endorsement at Senate of greater rigor in W courses. The administration was asked whether it will be possible to support the recommended cap of 25. Dr. Prabhu indicated

that it is good to have this stated as a goal even if it cannot be currently guaranteed due to other influencing factors. He noted that an issue like this can become a top priority with faculty support. Concern was expressed that faculty should not be voting on a stated 25-student cap given the current situation with class size caps.

Discussion was held regarding whether the proposal could be considered in parts rather than collectively. A Luek/West motion to substitute the GERC motion with an ad seriatim consideration of the proposal points was made. Dr. Warmkessel noted that the proposal represents compromises addressing viewpoints of different groups and indicated that the recommendations represent interlocking issues. Specifically, it was noted that an elective block cannot be created without the change to a 3-3-3 distribution in G blocks. Dr. Prabhu commented that it is important for the faculty to move forward on the issue of Gen Ed revision with the understanding that modifications can be made as needed. He pointed out that the expectation, particularly from Middle States, is for the Gen Ed program to be assessed and improved continuously. The Luek/West motion to substitute was withdrawn.

The need for Senate to endorse the proposal to allow for presentation to the entire faculty was stressed. A Wismer/Igyor call to previous question on the motion from GERC was approved. The GERC motion to endorse the proposal for a revised General Education Curriculum and approve the scheduling of a vote by the faculty on the proposal prior to the end of the Spring 2007 semester was approved by 22 yes, 3 no and 3 abstaining votes.

Senator Warmkessel indicated that she would work with APSCUF to arrange for the Gen Ed vote to be scheduled along with spring APSCUF elections. She also invited any suggestions of mechanisms for informing faculty about the Gen Ed proposal in preparation for voting.

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

None

VIII. Proposed Courses and Programs

(1) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

BA INTL majors. Proposal to update the International Studies program was approved without dissent.

(2) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

BA INTL minors. Proposal to update the International Studies program was approved without dissent.

(3) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

COMM 311: Environmental Advocacy, 3 credits, G1. Proposal to create a course to explore how citizens and public groups influence policies and practices affecting natural and human environments was approved without dissent.

(4) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

ENGL 483: Politics, Film and Electronic Media. Proposal to add a P designation was approved without dissent.

(5) CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

ELED 376: Assessment for Instructional Planning. Proposal to add a W designation was approved without dissent.

IX. Faculty Emeritus

None

X. Mr. John Baltzer, Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD) Counselor

Mr. Baltzer shared about the active role of the AOD Team to raise awareness about alcohol and other drugs across campus. He distributed a summary and brochure and reported on survey results and the general climate on campus. [see Attachment #1] He noted that MU is in a good position relative to many schools but stressed that we should still take advantage of opportunities to increase the awareness and decision-making skills of our students. Mr. Baltzer encouraged faculty to recommend an AOD Check-up for students who may be struggling. He also indicated the availability of an online self-assessment tool called E-Chug. A question was raised about methamphetamine use on campus. Mr. Baltzer responded that this is not a visible population on campus as abusers are unlikely to be able to function well enough to continue classes. When asked about prescription drugs, he noted that the Center for Counseling and Human Development is seeing abuse of oxycontin, ritalin and adderall. Senator Saunders affirmed Mr. Baltzer's comments. Senator Blazer recommended that departments consider inviting Mr. Baltzer, the AOD Guy, to speak to their faculty.

XI. Other/New Business

Provost Prabhu reported that information on the performance funding allocations will be released soon, showing how the funding is supporting faculty development and student research.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee L. Miller
Faculty Senate Secretary

Action Summary:

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A Luek/West motion to substitute the GERC motion with an ad seriatim consideration was made. ... The Luek/West motion to substitute was withdrawn.

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A.O.D.

Expressing Concerns about Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use

This protocol is the result of inquiries from faculty and staff about how best to approach a student who is exhibiting signs that their relationship with alcohol and other drugs (AOD) is causing them harm. We hope this outline will help increase your comfort and confidence in talking with students about their AOD use.

1. Call the Counseling Center(ext 3122) if you have any questions about expressing your concerns.
2. Remind yourself that “Intervention always works”. You may be the first to talk about the problem with this student or the last in a long succession of interventions that finally convinces him or her to examine their relationship with alcohol and other drugs. It’s not your job to get the student to the Counseling Center but simply to recommend an AOD Check-up.
3. Approach the student in private with an attitude of concern.
4. Express your concern with “sensory feedback”. “What I ‘see’ is that you come into my class late, unprepared, smelling of alcohol and visibly under the influence.” “You frequently doze off in class and your grades are problematic.” “I have ‘heard’ you talk about a relationship with alcohol and other drugs that includes bingeing, partying on multiple nights of the week, significant consequences, laughing about blackouts or embarrassing behavior and I am concerned.”
5. Suggest that the student call to make an appointment for an AOD Check-up at the Counseling Center and give him or her our number. (717-872-3122) Support them in making the call as soon as possible by encouraging them to use your phone and make the appointment from your office. Remind them that it is free, confidential and that the goal is simply to have them honestly examine their relationship with alcohol and other drugs.
6. Allow the student to respond but resist the temptation to engage the student in debate about any possible minimizations or excuses and hold him or her to the standards of appropriate conduct and respect. Remember your task is to express concern and suggest an AOD check-up.
7. Respect the student’s right to decline you suggestion and encourage them to at least take the E-Chug (alcohol) or E-Toke (marijuana). The icons for these confidential self assessment screening tools are on the Counseling Center Web Page
8. Follow up with a note or privately ask if they have followed through on your suggestion.
9. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to call the AOD Guy at the Counseling Center. (ext.3122)

Expressing Concerns About Student AOD Issues

1. Call Counseling Center (x 3122) for clarity and support if necessary
2. Remember “Intervention always works”
3. Privately approach student with an attitude of concern
4. Express concern in “I heard, I saw” feedback
5. Suggest calling Counseling Center (x 3122) for scheduling an AOD Check-up
6. Allow them to respond if they choose but expect them to respect your suggestion and concerns.
7. Call Counseling Center (x 3122) if you need support.
8. Follow up in private