

**Millersville University
Faculty Senate Meeting
December 2, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Communication and Theatre, English, and Music.

I. Minutes

Minutes from November 18 meeting will be approved at January 20, 2004 meeting.

II. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Chairperson Piperberg informed the Faculty Senate that the University College/ACE proposal will not be on the January meeting agenda. There is not enough time to conduct the needed discussions prior to the January 20, 2004 meeting of Senate.

III. Report of the Student Senate President

The Person of the Year Plaques were delivered last week, but errors were found on the plaques and they had to be sent back. The Senate's last meeting of the semester is this Thursday and we will be attending the Festival of Lights. We are still working on registering for COSGA (Conference of Student Government Associations). We selected eight delegates to attend the conference at Texas A&M in February. The Senate was in the last issue of the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal. A few senators attended the last Borough Council meeting to address the issue of parking on Elizabeth Street. The Senate wishes all of you a happy holiday and New Year's.

IV. Report of Graduate Student Organization

None.

V. Report of Administrative Officers

President McNairy:

President McNairy clarified that the McComsey Building is safe despite the press report that it does not have an occupancy permit. The DGS and the contractors are working on the issue of the permit.

Acting Provost Shane:

Acting Provost Shane informed Senate that in the development of the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan community members are actively involved. He also stated that the ACE proposal will be reviewed again by the task force. He also mentioned that course numbering issues are currently being reviewed.

Executive Assistant to the President Phillips:

Students and faculty participating in this year's Winter Session will be asked to complete a survey about their satisfaction with the new format. Senator Wismer raised some questions about the permanency of the common calendar. Senators Rosenthal and Miller asked for clarification on the length of future winter breaks.

VI. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

Academic Policies Committee

The new policy regarding course repeats was presented to Faculty Senate for discussion and will be placed on the agenda for the next Faculty Senate Meeting scheduled for January 20, 2003.

General Education Review Committee

A proposal for the double-counting of a Perspectives Course in the Music Department Major Requirements was presented. {see Attachment #1} It will be discussed at the next Faculty Senate Meeting. (January 20, 2004)

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

None.

VIII. Proposed Courses and Programs

CHANGES IN COURSES/CURRICULA

CHEM 111 – Introductory Chemistry I, 4 credits – change in prerequisites from no prerequisites to a grade of C or better in CHEM 110 or a satisfactory score on the placement test before registration or permission of the Chair – APPROVED
Desired Effective Date – Fall 2004.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

ESCI/BIOL 103 – The Science of Evolution, 3 credits, seeking a G2 label.
APPROVED. Desired Effective Date – Fall 2004

IX. Faculty Emeritus

None.

X. Academic Policies Committee: Revision of the Completion of the Major Policy

The following statement has been added to the Completion-of-the-Major Policy: Except for state mandated requirements, departments may not require a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) or major grade point average (GPA) higher than the University 2.0 GPA minimum requirement. After some discussion the policy was approved as revised.

XI. Other/ New Business

The Distance Learning Approval Process Proposal brought to the Faculty Senate by Senator Wismer was discussed after a Wismer/Price motion {see Attachment #2}. After some discussion, the proposal was sent to the Academic Policies Committee after a Mowrey/Wismer motion to refer it to the Committee passed. After discussion by the Academic Policies Committee, it is anticipated that the policy will be brought back to the Faculty Senate for further discussion and consideration.

Senator Kevorkian asked for clarification of an e-mail, which informed the non-faculty staff about the lack of heat in University buildings during the holiday break. Acting Provost Shane explained that the staff has been encouraged to take vacation days during the winter break (essentially between Christmas and New Year's Day).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Elba I. Rohena
Secretary

Action Summary

CHEM 111 – Introductory Chemistry I, 4 credits – change in prerequisites from no prerequisites to a grade of C or better in CHEM 110 or a satisfactory score on the placement test before registration or permission of the Chair – APPROVED.
Effective Date – Fall 2004.

ESCI/BIOL 103 – The Science of Evolution, 3 credits, seeking a G2 label-
APPROVED
Effective Date – Fall 2004

COMPLETION-OF-THE-MAJOR POLICY

Approved with revisions: The following statement has been added to the Completion-of-the-Major Policy: Except for state mandated requirements, departments may not require a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) or major grade point average (GPA) higher than the University 2.0 GPA minimum requirement.

DISTANCE LEARNING APPROVAL PROCESS PROPOSAL brought to the Faculty Senate by Senator Wismer was discussed by Wismer/Price motion. On a Mowrey/Wisner motion the proposal will be sent to the Academic Policies Committee for review and then brought back to the Faculty Senate for discussion.

Attachment #1

To: Faculty Senate
From: General Education Review Committee
Re: Double Counting a Perspectives Course
in the Music Dept. Major Requirements

Background:

In June 2003 Senate voted to allow the Music Dept. to double-count Music 363 as both a required Music major course and as a perspectives course for the 2003-04 school year. This double-counting is prohibited by the rules established to fulfill the General Education requirements at Millersville University. The rationale for granting this exception was the conflicting pressures that the Music Dept. faced from their accrediting agency and the 120 credit state mandate. In June it was decided that the General Education Review Committee would review this action and make a recommendation to Senate.

Recommendation:

The General Education Review Committee recommends that Senate continues to allow the Music Dept. to continue to double-count Music 363 as both a required Music major course and as a perspectives course for the 2004-05 school year. We further recommend that this exception not be made permanent but that the exception should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Rationale:

The committee feels that this exception is necessary for the Music Dept to retain its accreditation and to meet the 120 mandate. There are two reasons for not making this a permanent exception. First, the committee discussed the tension that exists between major degree credits and general education credits that some of our degree programs are feeling. The committee does not want to weaken the general education program. Second, the General Education Task Force will be making recommendations for changes to the general education program in November 2004. The Music Dept. and the General Education Review Committee will want to reconsider this exception if the general education program is changed.

Attachment #2

Re: Distance Learning Approval Process
To: Faculty Senate
From: Robert K. Wismer, Senator, Chemistry Department
Date: 2 December 2003

I propose that the approval process for distance learning be modified slightly. The **current** policy reads: "6.d.3. If the DL course is a new course, it continues through the University course approval process. If it is an existing course, departmental approval is sufficient."

I **propose** that the last sentence becomes, "If it is an existing course, the addition of the DL designation is considered a minor change."

Rationale: I make this motion for three reasons.

1. The first is simplicity. We currently have two methods of approving course changes, major and minor. Major changes require approval of Faculty Senate. Minor changes require approval of the school/division curriculum committee. I believe that UCPRC made a mistake and created potential confusion in creating another method of approval.

2. When UCPRC was asked to craft a DL policy, the committee needed to educate itself about distance learning. A major concern that arose at the beginning of our education was that Millersville faculty might be overly enthusiastic in presenting courses via distance learning. We were concerned that quality might erode. That does not seem to have happened.

UCPRC did not consider the appearance that quality was eroding. With several DL courses, there has been concern among faculty outside the originating department of the quality of the offering. In virtually all of these cases, an explanation of the content of the course has allayed the concerns. In other words, merely explaining the content of the course and its mode of offering to a wider audience can put concerns to rest.

The curriculum committee approval process offers that wider audience, and it also provides an immediacy of action that Faculty Senate approval does not.

3. Approval by division/school curriculum committee also assures that the DL proposal is fully thought through. One's departmental colleagues are apt to approve a proposal based upon the proposer's known ability as an instructor in the discipline. The school/divisional curriculum committee focuses more on the proposal itself and ensures that it will persuade a wider audience as being academically viable. (I write this as the author of a recent proposal that was substantially approved by its review by school curriculum committee.)