

Faculty Senate Minutes
April 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Athletics, Government & Political Affairs, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Music.

I. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.

II. Proposed Courses and Programs

Second Readings

The recommendation to dissolve the International Selection Committee was approved without dissent.

III. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Faculty Senate Chair Pro Tempore Saunders led the meeting while Chair Börger-Greco was in Harrisburg to speak with legislators representing MU's district. Senators were reminded of upcoming elections and spring commencement. Senator Saunders encouraged senators to contact legislative members from Lancaster and York.

IV. Report of the Student Senate

Mr. Jordan Smith introduced Student Senate Vice President Lauren Snyder. Mr. Smith reported on upcoming elections, including a debate among three candidates for president.

V. Report of the Graduate Student Association

None

VI. Report of the Administrative Officers

Provost

Dr. Prabhu was encouraged to consider how to add expiration dates to MU student identification cards so they would qualify as an acceptable form of voter identification.

Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. DeSantis reported on CCERP leadership awards being given to Dr. Kim Mahaffey and Dr. Stacey Irwin and a lifetime achievement award to Dr. Mel Allen. He announced the Policy Conference for the fall on being Stewards of Sustainability and Dr. Kathy Gregoire being selected to deliver the keynote address for graduate commencement.

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

UCPRC

(1) CHANGE TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

COMM 380: Digital Media Writing, 3 credits, W. Proposal to modify course pre-requisites.

(2) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

ESCI 369: Physical Oceanography, 3 credits. Proposal to establish a course covering physical properties of the ocean and relevant analysis.

A question was raised about different pre-requisites compared to the courses being replaced. It was noted that those are inherent in previous courses within the program.

(3) CHANGE TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

ESCI 380: Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation, 3 credits. Proposal to change course description and pre-requisites.

(4) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

ESCI 464: Ocean Ecosystems, 3 credits, W. Proposal for an advanced ocean sciences course investigating characteristics of major ocean biomes.

(5) NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

ESCI 468: Ocean Data Analysis and Presentation, 3 credits. Proposal for an advanced ocean sciences course covering ocean sampling techniques and analysis of oceanographic data.

(6) CHANGE TO UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

BS Ocean Sciences and Coastal Studies. Proposal to change the selection of major required courses.

(7) CHANGE TO UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

BS Ocean Sciences and Coastal Studies, Physical option. Proposal to change the courses in the major required courses.

Removal of W label from PSYC 227 & 228 was reported. A question was raised about when this would be effective. Discussion of the immediate impact this would have on students and programs ensued.

- Several education programs with limited resolution rely on this W course.
- Removing labels as registration is starting could cause difficulties for students. Ms. Snyder noted that putting the change in place for fall would be a serious concern for students.
- It is critical that departments inform the Registrar as soon as possible of label changes.
- Faculty need to retain the prerogative to teach courses as they deem best. However, administration is responsible for ensuring students have access to education.
- MU has a responsibility to provide courses as advertised: a contract with students.
- Faculty and administrators expressed commitment to meeting student needs.
- Options were considered: do exceptions for students graduating this fall, give W credit without requiring faculty to teach as a W.
- Precedent set with students currently taking L courses without laboratory experience. Concern that this does not serve student needs.
- Concern that students begin to expecting to meet all requirements with minimal engagement outside their major.
- Art & Design and Elementary Education requested that Psychology reconsider making this change for the fall. Also affects MDLV programs in place. Dr. Prabhu will follow up with Psychology about these two courses.
- APSCUF might be asked to consider the situation at Meet & Discuss on behalf of faculty needs.
- APC was asked to consider better mechanisms for implementing these changes.

GCPRC

(8) CHANGE TO GRADUATE CURRICULUM

Post-Baccalaureate Certification Pre-K to 4. Proposal outlining the certification program for post-baccalaureate candidates pursuing initial pre-K to grade 4 certification.

GERC

Senator Cardwell announced dates for CAE discussions of proposed changes to General Education and confirmed line-item voting will be used.

VIII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

None

IX. Faculty Emeriti

None

X. Educator of the Year Award

Discussion of options and who is in charge included:

- Recipient will be on platform and recognized at May commencement.
- The Provost's Office will arrange a one-year parking spot. The signage could indicate Educator of the Year.
- The library plaque needs to be handled by Faculty Senate or charged to a body.
- Recipient will speak at Honors Convocation in following spring.
- If there is a budget for an award, winner might prefer cash.
- A piece of art is very personal and might not be the best fit for this award.
- An item could be placed in the printed graduation or honors program. Dr. Prabhu will take this suggestion to the Cabinet.
- Personalized business cards were not preferred.
- A website to describe the award and list recipients could be made and linked from other sites like Faculty Senate and CAE.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee L. Miller
Faculty Senate Secretary

Action Summary:

The minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.

The recommendation to dissolve the International Selection Committee was approved without dissent.