
Undergraduate Studies Council

Minutes of 15 March 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate, Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:09 p.m. on 15 March 2022, virtually via Webex by Clifton Ealy Jr., chair.

Members in Attendance: Jessica Birnbaum, Deanna Bush, Carrie Cumming, Clifton Ealy, Kristal Ehrhardt, Lori Grey, Irma Lopez, Dawn Mason, Colin MacCreery, Diane Riggs, Mary-Louise Totton, Nicolas Witschi, Kelly Wittenberg

Member Absent: Steven Eberth, Elisha Ewing, Ashlynn Jackson

Advisory Members Present: Betsy Drummer, Edwin Martini

Ex Officio: Scott Slawinski

Guest(s): Wei-Chiao Huang, Chair, Economics; Carla Koretsky, Dean, Arts and Sciences; Jaglit Saini, Accountancy; John Saillant, Chair, English; Jeff Terpstra, Chair, Statistics; Bret Wagner, Marketing; Devrim Yaman, Associate Dean, Business; Marcellis Zondag, Marketing

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Birnbaum, seconded by Lopez, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Bush, seconded by Birnbaum, to approve the 8 February 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Cumming joined the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Reports of Officers

Chair Ealy reported that the most important agenda item was the USC_HCOB_Other-Revised-BBA-Requirements.Fall22 curriculum proposal.

Ex Officio Slawinski did not provide a report.

Erhardt joined the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Reports of University Representatives

Martini provided the Merze Tate report, which included undergraduate admissions proceeding well. There have been enrollment promotions, and admitted and continuing enrollments are continuing to increase. Orientation will soon begin. Students are enrolling in summer classes.

Martini reported that the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee is being evaluated as directed by Faculty Senate President Kritzman. A small work group was convened to complete the review and is currently compiling data. Ex Officio Slawinski is coordinating the efforts of the workgroup. The data under review is largely placement data. It is anticipated that students will not have to pay for courses that do not count toward their graduation requirements. It was suggested that English 1040 be proposed as a WMU Essential Studies course. Any questions or suggestions should be directed to Martini.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Cumming did not provide a Transfer of Credit Committee report.

Unfinished Business

Ealy did not provide the Intellectual Skills Program Advisory Committee charges.

Ealy did not provide the Transfer of Credit Committee charges.

Slawinski joined the meeting at 4 p.m.

New Business

[MOTION] It was moved by Cumming, seconded by Erhardt to approve proposal GSC&USC_CAS21-08_GEOG_Other-ADP-Geography.Fall22 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Lopez, seconded by Bush, to approve proposal USC_CHHS27-21_SLHS_New-Cert-SpeechLanguageHearingSciences.Fall22 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Mason, seconded by Witschi, to approve proposal USC_CAS21-120_PSY_Deletion-GeneralPsychology.Fall21 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Saini, Wagner, Yaman, and Zondag presented a summary of curriculum proposal USC_HCOB_Other-Revised-BBA-Requirements.Fall22 and addressed questions. They expressed that the establishment of a new core curriculum will make the college more competitive. Huang, Koretsky, Saillant, and Terpstra expressed concerns regarding the removal of the requirements for Economic, Statistics, and English courses from the core curriculum, without consultation with Arts and Sciences. The Business representatives stated that it was believed that it was important to complete the process of revision before consultation with other WMU units. Guests were excused from the meeting at 4:52 p.m. Discussion was held. It was noted that the proposed changes would result in a significant impact at WMU and possibly require additional curriculum changes. The deadline for the proposal to be approved in order to be included in the fall catalogue is 1 June.

[MOTION] It was moved by Birnbaum, seconded by Lopez, to approve proposal USC_HCOB_Other-Revised-BBA-Requirements.Fall22 as presented. With two abstentions, three opposed, and eight in favor, the motion carried.

Announcements

Topics on the next meeting agenda will include officer elections, changes to the council's standing committees, and ISPAC.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Bush, seconded by Birnbaum, to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 12 April 2022, via Webex at 3 pm.

Approval

Submitted by Diane Riggs, Vice Chair

Minutes approved on 12 April 2022.