

Wayne State University
Academic Senate
Curriculum and Instruction Committee
Meeting minutes
April 24, 2019

Present:

Brad Roth, Chair	Richard Pineau
Robert Ackerman	Michele Porter
Juliann Binienda	Liaisons: Paul Beavers (policy committee) Karin Terpenning (UPTF) Darin Ellis (Administration) Meghan Courtney (AAUP-AFT)
Victoria Dallas	
Thomas Fischer	
Jane Fitzgibbon	
Jeffrey Grynawski	
Robert Harr	
Bilal Hammoud	
Thomas Killion	

Absent with Notice: Donna Kashian, Yang Zhao

I. Minutes of the meeting on March 20, 2019 were read and approved.

II. Discussion of Changes to the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

Guests:

- Monica Brockmeyer, Senior Associate Provost for Student Success
- Dr. Henry L. Robinson, WSU Director of Federal TRIO Programs
- Former UROP student grantees: Kristina Curtiss & Zoe Pidgeon (Political Science)

The two students in attendance provided testimonials of their UROP experiences, and testimonials from three other students not in attendance were read aloud. They all detailed their UROP grant's positive impact on their academic lives.

Monica Brockmeyer provided an overview of UROP and how the decision was made to discontinue the biannual grant competition. She acknowledged that the process for discontinuing this aspect of the program should have included input from student and faculty members who have participated in it. She explained that the decision was based on efforts to provide more equity in research funding for all students. Hence, funds will be devoted to enhancing the McNair Scholars program and extending its reach. She nonetheless committed to addressing the expressed concerns. For immediate future there are carry-forward funds available to restore the traditional UROP for this coming fall semester. For subsequent semesters, Dr. Brockmeyer outlined a strategic vision to create a plan for helping all students to navigate undergraduate research opportunities at all levels. She suggested having a single application process, with a single deadline, advertised to all students. There will be a dedicated website for applications to the variety of available undergraduate research opportunities. She foresaw a 3-year rollout for a new system.

Dr. Robinson provided an overview of the TRIO programs at WSU. Here is the link for more information: <https://federaltrio.wayne.edu/about>

One of the programs is the McNair Scholars program. It is designed for low-income students and other demographic groups that are underrepresented in Ph.D. programs. It provides summer research stipends and many other forms of support. The goal is preparation for grad school leading to doctorates. Dr. Robinson described the importance of training students in research, interviewing, and other relevant skills.

Action Steps: The CIC appreciated the explanation and will continue to work with the Senior Associate Provost to assure a wider range of undergraduate research offerings at WSU, emphasizing “accessibility for all.”

III. Arriving at Committee Recommendations on Cheating Issues

Richard Pineau offered suggestions for moving forward on this topic. These were related to “how-to” guidelines for faculty on addressing academic dishonesty, including methods to forestall cheating. Other committee members suggested that faculty be encouraged to offer written testimonials about their experiences in reporting students to the DOSO for cheating, as well as to share teaching methods designed to prevent cheating and grading guidelines that address cheating, etc.

Action steps: Brad Roth suggested a task force including Richard Pineau, Yang Zhao and himself to draft these items for review by CIC members. This has to be completed by May 8th for Academic Senate reporting.

IV. Remaining Matters Raised by Provost’s Office (Darin Ellis), e.g.:

Darin Ellis asked the CIC to address the following items for the next academic year:

1. Develop processes for guarding against curricular overlap in the approval of new courses for undergraduates. Dr. Ellis has been in the position of making decisions unilaterally and is seeking routinized faculty input. The purpose is to eliminate duplication of courses across units, to promote interdisciplinary collaboration across campus, and to foster more effective curricular management.

Next Steps: The CIC was supportive of this and will consider a 3-5 person panel to assist. The details will be worked out moving forward in the next academic year.

2. Institutional Learning Outcomes – The university is required by the Higher Learning Commission to align ILOs with university mission. Program learning outcomes should also be mapped to WSU ILOs. He is seeking input on this and would like the CIC to provide provisional ILOs by the end of the next academic year.

Next Steps: The CIC was supportive and will review this in the next academic year.

V. Procedure for Drafting and Approval of a Committee Report for AY 2018-19

Brad Roth will be drafting the annual committee report for submission to the Academic Senate by May 8th. He will send out to committee for review.

VI. Matters Arising

Richard Pineau raised a question regarding faculty member concerned about Canvas LMS. The system does not allow for faculty to turn off email accessibility for students to each other. Tom Fischer noted that this is a function of the Canvas company’s product and not resolvable by the CIC. Turning off this function turns off other critical functions in this LMS. No follow up was deemed necessary.

Meeting adjourned by Brad Roth.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliann Binienda