

Wayne State University
Academic Senate
Curriculum and Instruction Committee
Meeting minutes
January 22, 2020

Present:

Brad Roth, Chair	Yang Zhao
Juliann Binienda	Liaisons: Paul Beavers (Policy Committee)
Kelly Dormer	Basel Berry (Student Senate)
Thomas Fischer	
Robert Harr	
Richard Pineau	

Absent with notice: Peter Henning, Sandra Oliver-McNeil, Manoj Kulchania, Darin Ellis (WSU Administration), Pramod Khosla (AAUP-AFT)

Absent: Stella Resko, Ali Salamey, Frank Koscielski (UPTF), Elizabeth Drake (GEOC)

Guest: Student Senate President, Stuart Baum

I. GEOC Update: Tom Fischer

Tom Fischer provided an update on GEOC activities. That committee has found some of the Inquiry area Learning Objectives to be dysfunctional, and is looking to modify some of these on the basis of a vote of the full GEOC. Any proposal for a more fundamental change to how an Inquiry area is defined would be brought to CIC (no such changes are currently being discussed). GEOC is soliciting CIC's assent to this arrangement. CIC members expressed no objection, provided that CIC be kept informed.

II. Student Senate Resolution on LGBTQ Issues/Queer Studies Hiring

Guest: Student Senate President Stuart Baum

In response to a recent student survey and other student senate input, the Student Senate has brought forth a resolution to support LGBTQ+ initiatives for student and academic life. Stuart reviewed the resolution and student concerns for this. WSU is woefully lacking in providing a supportive environment and academic infrastructure to promote diversity and inclusion with this student body. The second operative paragraph of the resolution is the most critical for our committee:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University Administration to appropriate funds for the hiring of at least one full-time faculty member dedicated to the field of Queer Studies to join the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program in order to develop and teach courses dedicated to the field of Queer Studies which can count toward both the University General Education Program requirements and at least one credential-offering program of study in the Queer Studies, in-line with the practices of the majority of the Michigan Public Universities and our University-approved peer institutions;

Discussion ensued regarding challenges to hiring of faculty, etc. Tom Fischer put forth a motion for CIC to recommend to the Academic Senate Policy Committee that it support the Student Senate Proposal. Motion seconded by R. Pineau. Votes cast. Motion carried, unanimously.

III. Approval of the Minutes of 12-11-19

Corrections to the minutes of 12-11-19 were as follows: Robert Harr's name was left off from absence list. Jodi Young name was spelled incorrectly. Changes made. Minutes approved with changes.

IV. GenEd Update: Change to MAT 1050 – Richard Pineau

Richard Pineau presented changes being proposed to GEOC by the Math Department to the structure of the GenEd Quantitative Experience (QE) STEM Track:

- MAT 1050 will be re-designated as MAT 1070
- MAT 1070 will be called College Algebra to be more in line with what other nearby institutions call their course at this level.
- MAT 1070 will be worth 5 credits and students will get all 5 credits counted toward their degree if they pass.
- In terms of content, the Trigonometry portion, which is very minimal, will be moved exclusively to the next course, MAT 1800 Elementary Function (Pre-Calculus). A few topics from MAT 1800 will be moved to MAT 1070, such as composition of functions and transformations of functions. This also brings the course more in line with what other institutions have.
- MAT 1070 will have a new textbook.
- The Center for Excellence in Equity in Mathematics (CEEM) will also offer a version of MAT 1070 for 5 credits, with all 5 counting toward graduation, if the student passes.
- CEEM will also offer a workshop/lab course with their MAT 1070 course. The lab will be called MAT 1075 and will be worth 2 credits. This is similar to what they do for their Emerging Scholars Program (ESP) sections of MAT 1800, 2010, 2020 workshop/labs. They have designations MAT 1990, 2110, 2120 respectively, and students register for them separately and are worth 2 credits.

V. Discussion of “Bartleby Learn” Homework Solutions

Richard Pineau reported that he “tested” the mathematics section of the Bartleby system and sent in some questions. He learned that solutions were being directly provided to math textbook homework questions. He also learned that basic questions submitted to the system's operators yielded answers that were highly deficient. Juliann Binienda reported having looked at the writing section and saw that students could easily pass off essays from the site as their own work. Much discussion ensued regarding this including the role of Barnes and Noble promoting Bartleby and implicating WSU in the operation. It was suggested that the Policy Committee confront the Bookstore Manager and AVP for Student Auxiliary Services with this information. Motion made by Richard Pineau and seconded by Yang Zhao to recommend to Academic Senate Policy Committee to sever WSU connection to Bartleby. Votes cast. Motion carried, unanimously.

VI. Report of the Subcommittee on Undergraduate Research Funding – Brad Roth

Brad Roth summarized his Subcommittee's report with its seven recommendations. He noted that the report was sent to Monica Brockmeyer and the WSU Research Committee. No responses received as of this meeting.

VII. Future Topics for the Committee

Brad Roth mentioned that we have three more meetings for the year. Urged us to consider topics for our meetings and review the committee charge from Darin Ellis as well. Ideas considered: Status of Provost initiative for interdisciplinary hires; State Hall renovation; Space and disability issues.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliann Binienda