

Wayne State University
Academic Senate
Curriculum and Instruction Committee
Meeting minutes
September 25, 2019

Present:

Brad Roth, Chair	Stella Resko
Juliann Binienda	Yang Zhao
Kelly Dormer	
Thomas Fischer	
Robert Harr	Liaisons: Paul Beavers (policy committee) Darin Ellis (WSU Administration) Basel Berry (Student Senate) Frank Koscieski (UPTF)
Peter Henning	
Sandra Oliver-McNeil	
Richard Pineau	

Absent with Notice: Manoi Kulchania, Ali Slaamey, Pramod Khosla (AAFUP-AFT)

Guest: Stuart Baum – President, Student Senate

I. Introductions

As this being the first meeting, all present introduced themselves.

II. Appointment of Recording Secretary

Juliann Binienda offered to be the permanent Recording Secretary. The Committee endorsed this appointment.

III. Update from the Chair (Brad Roth)

Brad Roth provided a review of last year's committee activities:

- 1) In response to the high cost of textbooks:
 - (a) First Day Program- This program was put forth by Barnes and Nobles bookstore as one method to offset the cost of textbooks for students. Essentially, students would pay an additional fee each semester to cover the cost of all textbooks. This has not been endorsed by WSU Student Senate nor the Academic Senate.
 - (b) Open Educational Resources (OER) – WSU Library System has been exploring these resources. This is endorsed by the WSU Student Senate.
- 2) Academic Dishonesty – Three main points of consideration:
 - (a) Technology of cheating – increases in student use of sophisticated devices and technologies.
 - (b) Methods to address cheating – The Student Code of Conduct policies and guidelines were reviewed. Dean of Students reported that they are undergoing review and will be updated.
 - (c) Faculty frustration – faculty are confused and unaware of the policies and procedures. Department and program leadership are not following all guidelines.
- 3) Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)
 - (a) There was reconsideration of the current UROP program. Last year the Associate Provost for Student Success made decision to end the bi-annual grant competition and integrate UROP with the McNair/TRIO programs. After much opposition, the competition was renewed for the current semester. Dr.

Brockmeyer has established a task force to review all options for the future. This task force has no representation from the Academic Senate.

- (b) Brad Roth is chairing a sub-committee of the Academic Senate to review options which will be sent to task force for consideration.
- 4) Quantitative Experience in Mathematics – Richard Pineau reported concerns from the Math Department about assessment of the General Education requirements.
- 5) Tom Fischer is now a member of the General Education Oversight committee
- 6) Curriculum Overlap Issue with new RCM Budgeting Model – This is related to the possibility of duplicative courses among programs to potentially garner increased tuition funding. Methods for determining review of course approvals are needed with stakeholder input.
- 7) The Faculty Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate has been addressing the issue of grade appeals. They have requested a joint meeting with us (CIC) to discuss their concerns. Our next meeting of October 23rd will be a joint meeting with them.

IV. Suggestions for AY 2019-20 Agenda Items from the Student Senate – Stuart Baum, President

Stuart Baum presented potential agenda items for CIC consideration. He also confirmed the Student Senate disapproval of First Day Program and instead endorsement of OER.

Items requested for consideration:

- 1) Consistency among faculty and syllabi for baseline student absence policies. Students are concerned about lack of equivalency of faculty response to student absences due to illness, deaths, births, etc. This generated much discussion including the issue of religious observances. Questions arose regarding university policy on these issues. The CIC will add this to future agenda items for exploration.
- 2) The students are seeking better methods for course scheduling, sequencing and quantity of individual courses to eliminate delays in graduation.

V. Suggestions for AY 2019-20 Agenda Items from the Provost's Office – Darin Ellis, Associate Provost

Darin Ellis, Associate Provost provided a few items for consideration:

- 1) WSU needs to be developing institutional learning objectives are competencies for all students upon graduation. Need to be broad enough to cover all of our students but focused on our WSU mission. Need members to assist. Three members of CIC volunteered: Juliann Binienda, Tom Fischer, Paul Beavers.
- 2) The Higher Learning Commission is conducting mid-term review of WSU accreditation. The Associate Provost is seeking assistance with particular attention to General Education course assessment. Richard Pineau described the assessment process for Gen Ed in Mathematics.
- 3) Need for members to participate on the Classroom Allocation committee. Examining scheduling of classrooms, planning of space usage, etc. Three members of CIC volunteered: Tom Fischer, Robert Harr, Kelly Dormer.

VI. Provisional Determination of AY 2019-20 Agenda Items

Robert Harr raised additional topics for potential review by CIC this coming year:

- 1) The Grad School is now requiring non-US students to submit validated transcripts which is an additional cost to the applicant of \$250. Departments, programs and faculty were not made aware of this change.

2) SET Scores and their usage by students. Some discrepancy in terms of ratings by questions. Darin Ellis mentioned that the SET evaluations were under review.

3) Will there be any changes in GTAs with the new RCM model? Currently the graduate school provides distribution. Will this remain the same?

4) Questions and conflicts regarding the renovation of the old Science and Engineering Library to a new STEM instruction building. Wants, needs and outcomes in terms of space, class configurations, etc are confusing.

5) Outdated computer equipment and teaching tools such as need for Smart Boards, etc. Is there a plan for updating?

6) Active learning spaces in classrooms

7) Need larger rooms for exams.

a) Numbers 5, 6, 7 of the list will be addressed presumably by the newly formed Classroom Allocation Committee

8) Canvas LMS has some flaws in terms of logging grades, etc.

9) Registrar lack of consistency and ability in terms of labeling and numbering of courses.

Brad Roth offered potential additional topics for future agenda items:

1) Online education – Review of 3N Committee report and recommendations

2) Bookstore markups and textbook costs

3) Photos on WSU OneCards – There is a potential for fraud.

VII. Matters Arising

Juliann Binienda reported that she will not be at meeting on October 23rd and will need substitute minute-taker.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliann Binienda