

Faculty Senate Minutes
November 5, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. All departments were in attendance except Elementary & Early Childhood Education, and Foreign Languages.

I. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the October 1, 2013 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.

II. Proposed Courses and Programs

Graduate New Course and Course Revision Proposal Forms were approved without dissent.

Provisional implementation of the Course Approval Process was approved without dissent.

III. Report of the Faculty Senate Chairperson

Faculty Senate Chair Börger-Greco was absent and Chair Pro-Tempore Cook acted in her place. A question of the scope of need for the food bank will be explored to better inform
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VI. Report of the Administrative Officers

Provost

Provost Prabhu reported on successful Inauguration and Homecoming activities. He also announced that all intercollegiate athletes will now have priority registration along with Honors students and students with disabilities. Dr. Prabhu emphasized the need to accommodate tight practice schedules without interfering with students' academics even for off-season teams. Concerns were raised about some advisees suddenly needing a new TAP number and forms completed. It was noted that the timing was related to the change being approved so close to registration and should not happen in the future. Dr. Grant also highlighted a model for advising athletes that includes academic planning and a schedule review with coaches, noting the goal of ensuring athletes are positioned to succeed in the classroom. Dr. Prabhu pointed out that MU has the highest number of scholar-athletes in PASSHE and is committed to quality academics for athletes.

Dr. Prabhu reported the development of two new BA MDST programs in Applied Disabilities and in Emergency Management. A concern was raised about the perception that any two areas can be combined even though some fields already have an established program. Dr. Prabhu affirmed that MDST degrees are only developed with faculty advisement and should not overlap current programs.

Dr. Prabhu reported on the highly successful job fair and internship event, noting especially the many MU alumni representing companies interested in hiring more MU students.

In response to faculty concern, it was noted that MU does have an anti-solicitation policy and unwanted solicitors can be reported to the Provost's Office.

Associate Provost for Academic Administration

Dr. Adams announced the annual D2L upgrade to be done December 14, noting future plans should make upgrades less intrusive and not necessarily coordinated across PASSHE campuses. He also announced upcoming CAE events.

VII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

UCPRC

Concerns were raised about the recertification process for GenEd labels. UCPRC and GERC should consult on this issue.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

(1) MUSI 193: Computer Applications in Music Production I, 3 credits. Proposal for course to develop student understanding of MIDI, sequencing, and digital audio.

(2) MUSI 293: Computer Applications in Music Production II, 3 credits. Proposal for course in recording, editing, mixing, and producing music using professional digital software.

CHANGE TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

(12) BIOL 101: Foundations of Biology. Proposal to change pre-requisites to include MATH 101 as a co-requisite or pre-requisite or math placement in MATH 160 or higher.

It was noted that UCPRC has suggested that Biology consider making MATH 101 a pre-requisite only.

(13) ERCH 421: Language Development and Emergent Literacy. Proposal to add a W label.

It was noted that the proposal specifies retroactive implementation for students currently in the course.

GCPRC

NEW GRADUATE COURSE

(14) SOWK 614: Survey Development and Measurement, 3 credits. Proposal for course to prepare students with skills related to measurement instruments, scale development, and determination of scale reliability and validity.

CHANGE TO GRADUATE COURSE

(15) SOWK 601: Integrative Seminar. Proposal to update course description to better reflect current content and accreditation standards.

(16) SOWK 610: Advanced Human Behavior in the Social Environment. Proposal to correct an error in pre-requisites to read SOWK 531 or SOWK 601.

APC

An update to the undergraduate policy on Pass/Fail Courses was presented. The proposal adds a specific requirement that students have a declared major to support the restriction that major courses cannot be taken P/F and minor wording clarifications.

A question was raised about students completing courses by exam. It was noted that there is a policy in place; although, several departments noted unique practices.

VIII. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

None

IX. Faculty Emeriti

None

X. Other/New Business

Senator Sciarretta reported on reduced feedback from faculty related to retention initiatives. He noted student retention has been improved by student interactions with their advisors and attendance at related seminars. Mr. Sciarretta stressed the need for ASD to hear from faculty on meetings with relevant advisees and pointed out that faculty may refer students to ASD for additional help.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee L. Miller
Faculty Senate Secretary

Action Summary:

The minutes of the October 1, 2013 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as written.