

MINUTES
UW-Green Bay University Committee
10 April, 2013
3:00 PM, CL 750
Previous Meeting—27 March, 2013

Present: Greg Davis; Derek Jeffreys(Chair); Mimi Kubsch; Ryan Martin; Steven Meyer; Bryan Vescio; Kristy Aoki, Academic Staff Representative; Heba Mohammad, Student Government Association Representative

Guests: Provost Julia Wallace, Associate Provost Andrew Kersten, AAC Chair Kaiome Malloy

I. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the March 27 meeting were approved by voice vote and unanimous consent.

II. Discussion of the April 3 Faculty Senate Meeting: Greg Davis said that NAS was generally satisfied with the Senate's approval of the Engineering Technology programs. He stressed that NAS wanted them to be good programs and not merely a political gesture. What had prompted NAS faculty to support altering the language of the motions, he said, was that administration had made progress toward generating a workable funding model. He also said that hiring a consultant to help with curriculum planning would benefit the four-year institutions involved in the proposals more than it would benefit two-year institutions. UC members were not entirely satisfied that the issue of two of the programs' interdisciplinarity had been left unresolved and agreed to look into the possibility of making that decision part of the processes for both proposing and reviewing new programs in the future. While the UC did not feel that the meeting had produced strong enough statements in favor of staffing programs with tenure-track faculty, it was happy that at least a gesture in that direction had been registered in the motions.

III. Proposed Code Change for General Education Council: Chair Jeffreys had circulated a document proposing to alter the charge of the GEC, a document that had been endorsed by that committee. Some UC members expressed concern that the proposed changes remove the requirement that the GEC advise the Faculty Senate and add a requirement that they advise administration. Since the proposal requires the Senate to be advised only about "issues of General Education requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of the Faculty," the UC wondered which such issues would fall outside the jurisdiction of the Faculty, and they raised some questions about the motivations for such a change. They agreed to ask someone from the GEC or SOFAS Cliff Abbott about those motivations before the code change made it to the Senate agenda.

IV. Meeting with the Provost: Provost Wallace discussed two main topics with the UC:

- *US News Survey:* She circulated a copy of the survey *US News* sends universities in order to gauge the reputation of peer institutions. She noted that the Office of Institutional Research is typically in charge of providing information for the survey and wondered if they were the appropriate source.
- *Regents meeting:* She circulated some documents that had been distributed at the recent Board of Regents meeting, documents that analyzed the numbers and distribution of

academic programs within the system over the past few decades. Included in these documents were charts comparing the numbers of programs in areas like STEM fields, Business, Health, and “other,” as well as charts reflecting the degree of overlap among programs within the system. The study showed that the number of overall programs had remained fairly steady, while a slight but significant uptick in the numbers of STEM, Business, and Health had occurred at the expense of “other” programs. The Provost noted that some Regents wondered whether the system was offering the right array of programs, which prompted other Regents to renew their support for liberal arts education. Provost Wallace also reported that the Regents had received an update on the Flex Option program, about which they remained enthusiastic. She said that they were told competencies for the first programs would be written by May. Greg Davis asked her to pay special attention to progress on competencies for General Education being developed by the Colleges, though the Provost suggested that most students admitted to Flex Option degree programs would likely already have two-year degrees and that they may only be able to use Flex Option for General Education classes if they were admitted to a Flex Option degree program. She said that the issue of the thirty credit common core had also come up, and that Technical Colleges were unhappy with the idea and still hoped to change the legislation. Finally, she noted that UW-Madison had already contracted with Coursera to offer a number of MOOCs to its students.

V. Meeting with Kaiome Malloy and Andy Kersten on Course Proposal Process: AAC Chair Malloy and Associate Provost Kersten presented a proposal for a regular four-year course review which would attempt to identify courses that had not been taught for some time and would give programs the option to deactivate the courses or to leave them unchanged. Chair Jeffreys asked whether the presenters wanted the proposal brought before the Senate, and they agreed that doing so would be a good idea. Greg Davis asked about the consequences of leaving the disciplinary status of the Engineering Technology programs undecided, and Associate Provost Kersten agreed that they were in limbo. He said former Associate Provost Tim Sewall had suggested amending the motions to include a decision on the issue, but all were agreed that such action should await further planning of the curriculum for the two programs. Ryan Martin asked whether programs designated as “professional” were automatically considered interdisciplinary or whether they were exempted from the requirement of an interdisciplinary major or minor. No one seemed to know the answer to that question. Associate Provost Kersten said he thought that it was important that all programs make the case for interdisciplinarity in the governance process and said he would work on a mechanism for requiring them to do so.

VI. Discussion of 2013-14 Calendar: Chair Jeffreys circulated a document created by Cliff Abbott outlining three different possibilities for the 2013-14 Senate schedule. Members agreed that the best option was to combine the first two options so that the schedule of meetings would not be delayed in the fall but would be delayed by one week in the spring, so that the Senate would not meet until classes were in session in January. UC members also agreed to elect a new chair and speaker of the Senate at the next UC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted, 4/15/13, Bryan Vescio, Secretary Pro Tempore

