

Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2014
UC 221

Senators in attendance:

Aparna Palmer, Johnny Snyder, Chad Middleton, Dan Schultz-Ela, Gayla Jo Slauson, James Ayers, Anne Bledsoe, Josh Butler, Jack Delmore, Lisa Friel, TJ Gerlach, Megan Glynn, Elizabeth Sharp, Genell Stites, Sarah Swedberg, Laney Wooster

Guests in attendance:

Carol Futhey, Academic Affairs; Steve Werman, Academic Affairs; Kurt Haas, Language, Literature and Mass Communication; Jeremy Hawkins, Kinesiology; Susan Longest, Biology; Tonya Chapin, Health Sciences; Doug O'Roark, Social and Behavioral Sciences; Lisa Driskell, Computer Science, Mathematics & Statistics; Don Carpenter, Business; Holly Teal, Registrar; Suzanne Lay, Business

Minutes Recorder: Melinda J. Scott

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by President Aparna Palmer at 3:33pm.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: to accept the items on the consent agenda as listed below: (Swedberg/Sharp); motion carried unanimously.

- A. Faculty Success Committee Final Report
- B. Emeritus Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. Distinguished Faculty Award Meeting Minutes

III. FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Motion: to approve the Senate minutes from the previous meeting, September 4, 2014: (Slauson/Butler); motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: With new minutes recorder, is the current format acceptable to Senate members—specifically regarding detailed narrative vs bullet points? Both detail and “lists” were mentioned as favored. Also, is the use of Senator names when detailing discussions acceptable? There was no consensus, though the proposal will be followed that if a Senator wished their name to be removed from a discussion, he or she inform the minutes recorder. Additionally, it was suggested that whatever mode of note-taking (use of Senator “id”) is easiest for minutes recorder should be adopted. I-Pads for each Senator was also proposed to dispense with the volumes of paper (of various committee meetings, reports, etc.). No decisive action was taken.

IV. COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS TO APPROVE

- A. Approve Combined Curriculum Annual Report (2013/2014)
- B. Approve UCC Committee minutes from 8/28/14
- C. Approve Faculty Initiative in Assessment Report

Motion: to approve the Combined Curriculum Annual Report (2013/2014): (Ayers/Glynn); motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: This report is a summary and comprehensive view of the changes made to classes and programs throughout the year, as approved by the Curriculum Committee. The UCC is attempting to stagger terms (p. 2, paragraph 2) so that new and seasoned members serve synchronously on the committee. The motion (p. 2) to add the Director of Financial Aid as an ex officio UCC member will be addressed later in this FS meeting. Regarding the November 14, 2013 UCC minutes (p. 3), it is confirmed that the Director of Teacher Education signs proposals related to WCCC's Early Childhood associate degrees as part of the review process, but not necessarily as a demonstration of "line authority." This procedure is not yet reflected in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Motion: to approve the UCC Committee minutes from 8/28/14: (Middleton/Stites); motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: FS will address addition of the Chair of the Essential Learning sub-committee as an ex officio member of the UCC (p. 2, penultimate paragraph) at this meeting, as it impacts the FS Standing Committee Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Motion: to approve the Faculty Initiative in Assessment Report: (Sharp/Swedberg); motion carried unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION OF ESSENTIAL LEARNING (Kurt Haas)

[Hand-out provided: "Questions and Answers Concerning the Maverick Milestone Course"]

Highlights of the Maverick Milestone Course:

- A 200-level, interdisciplinary course designed to develop skills in problem-solving and applying fresh perspectives/non-traditional approaches to course topics
- Design embraces integrative approach to education, creating a flexible intellect in preparation for ever-evolving career market
- Team-taught by two faculty members of different disciplines; class cap of 60 students
- Intended to fit into regular faculty course load—no course overload expectation
- A self-selected opportunity to collaborate with peers—voluntary participation (see Doug O'Roark)
- Initial implementation allows for incremental increase in course offerings
- "Pilot period" begins Spring 2015. Required of new students entering CMU Fall 2015—though given freshman requirements their first 2 years, official launch (full capacity) expected Spring 2017
- Essential Speech course requirement (one credit) as co-requisite of Milestone Course, building baseline skill prior to upper division courses
- Removal of Applied Studies due to lack of common thread (re: content and skill development)

Discussion: Haas estimated twenty Milestone courses (sections) offered in a single semester (not necessarily different topics). During the "pilot period," a student taking a milestone course would receive a waiver to apply that class to the student's degree requirements. Applied Studies will still exist in Spring 2015, although Milestone Courses will eventually replace Applied Studies. Credit application is "3-and-1." Assessment of the courses will be shared between the Assessment Committee and the Essential Learning Committee, with the latter analyzing data to make recommendations. Pilot methodologies have been developed for essential learning outcomes. A Milestone Course aims to serve as a foundation to a department's individual major;

the hope being that departments will consider how a Milestone Course will fit into the curricula for their degrees. While Milestone Courses serve as pre-requisites for upper-division coursework, the pre-requisites for Milestone Courses would be English 112 and Math 110 or higher, to ensure basic literacy and numeracy skills. SPCH 101/102 will not go away—but will be offered to satisfy studio requirements. Regarding more involved pre-requisites for a hefty Milestone Course, “teacher approval” was suggested, but Haas encouraged thinking of Milestone Courses as “Gen-Ed.” Regarding course descriptions when Milestone Courses can vary so widely, descriptions will be topic-specific, but how this will work within the course catalog has yet to be determined.

Lay mentioned summer pilot of the AAC&U VALUE rubrics. To refine the process, the Assessment Committee invites volunteer faculty members from all departments to an event slated November 4, 5, 6, (2-6pm each day). It is an opportunity to perform assessments in a pilot-type setting: calibrating a rubric, looking at student work and assessing essential learning. Each day is dedicated to a different essential learning competency: communication, math and critical thinking, all utilizing AAC&U VALUE rubrics.

(see: www.coloradomesa.edu/assessment/documents/EssentialLearningReportSummer2014.pdf)

Holly Teal is very interested in course descriptions for Milestone Courses and concerned about classroom scheduling—Carol Futhey says it's covered.

Information on Spring 2015 pilot Milestone Courses will be spread “word of mouth” and via a webpage (currently in the preliminary stages). Deadline for topic submissions was not explicit, though Haas did say that the committee is seeking four more courses for Fall 2015.

VI. NEW ACTION ITEMS

A. Standing Committee Elections, Johnny Snyder

- Three positions required election. The only contested position was At Large representative to Academic Policies. Voting was by ballot.

B. Addition of Ex Officio Members to Standing Committees, Johnny Snyder

Communication issues amongst committees formed in the last few years and campus departments necessitate revisions to Policy and Procedures Manual for Faculty Senate Standing Committees.

Proposals for revisions:

1. Addition of the Chair of the Essential Learning sub-committee to the UCC as an ex officio member (ensures receipt of email communications)
2. Addition of the Director of Financial Aid (currently an ex officio member of the UCC) to both the Graduate Curriculum and the WCCC Curriculum Committees as an ex officio member (to enhance communication and ensure compliance with federal financial aid regulations—respective of each curriculum body)
3. Remove Catalog Description Reviewer from an officer position of the UCC
4. Addition of Catalog Description Reviewer to both the Graduate and WCCC Curriculum Committees as an ex officio member

Motion: to adopt all four aforementioned revisions to the Policies and Procedures Manual for Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

(Ayers/Swedberg); motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: Clarified that the Catalog Description Reviewer is already an ex officio member of the UCC and that there is one Catalog Description Reviewer for both campuses (all three curriculum committees).

C. Discussion of Legal Benefits for Faculty, Chad Middleton

- Some institutions have optional “legal insurance” for faculty members, at a price of about \$18.00 monthly, that includes wills, medical power of attorney, and legal representation in the event of a lawsuit. Examples of comparable Colorado institutions having a version of legal coverage: CU Boulder, CSU, Adams State

Motion: to charge the Salary and Benefits Committee with examining the possibility of offering legal benefits program to faculty: (Swedberg/Delmore); motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: Beyond the three elements of coverage already mentioned, other instances of legal representation are not known.

D. Discussion of Reduced Parking Cost to Faculty, Aparna Palmer

- The issue was discussed in the Executive Committee meeting. President Foster felt the current fee structure is reasonable, but was not opposed to exploring reduction in parking costs, although parking is already heavily subsidized

Motion: to charge the Salary and Benefits Committee with exploring reduced parking costs: (Middleton/Delmore); motion carried unanimously.

VI. REPORTS

A. Standing Committee status report, Johnny Snyder

- Justin Gollob was elected as the new At Large Representative of the Academic Policies Committee

B. Executive Committee Report, Dan Schultz-Ela

- President Foster commented that a new parking space costs about \$10,000 per space (including land purchase, demolition, ground preparation, etc.); a paved spaced can cost up to \$30,000. He has consulted with large parking contractors. President Foster does waive lots of parking tickets

C. Update from Academic Affairs, Carol Futhey or Steve Werman

- CCHE has mandated CMU with posting transfer guides on the website. A template for the transfer guide will be distributed as soon as it has been approved by the General Education Council. Department heads will be consulting faculty in completing templates for various majors offered by the department
- Tomlinson Library has been granted funding; Sylvia Rael has been appointed as the new library director (the reason for a new director is not known)
- All General Education courses are GT pathways; courses categorized as Essential Learning courses must be submitted to CCHE for approval to GT pathways
- Maverick Milestone Courses are not part of the General Education system
- Any incoming student with AA or AS is required to take KINE, Milestone Course, etc.
- Degree of designation determines CMU's obligation to confer said degree within a pre-determined number of credit hours
- Departments will need to revamp transfer guides with respect to the Applied Studies category
- If a student withdraws from a Milestone Course, they would necessarily withdraw with

- the accompanying speech course
- CMU associate graduates can use the transfer guides for entering other institutions
 - Unclear how foreign languages will fit into Essential Learning category for a BS degree vs language requirement for a BA degree
 - Fine Arts and Humanities are separate at CMU to broaden educational experience

VI.II AMENDMENT TO NEW ACTION ITEM B. #4. above

**Motion: to change GCC to UCC in #4 on the proposed revisions to the Policy and Procedures Manual :
(Ayers/Delmore); motion carried unanimously.**

Note: Proposal #4 now reads: “Addition of Catalog Description Reviewer to both the Undergraduate Curriculum and the WCCC Curriculum Committees as an ex officio member”

VI. ADJOURN

Motion: to adjourn the Faculty Senate meeting of September 18, 2014 (Middleton).

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda J. Scott, Minutes Recorder