

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 4, 2006

Jorge Nobo, chair, convened the Academic Affairs Committee at 3:30 pm in the Boswell Room of the Memorial Union. Members present were: Pat Munzer, David Pownell, Bill Roach, Steven Elisha, Patricia Renn-Scanlan, Shaun Schmidt, and Loran Smith. Invited guest present was: Brian Ogawa, Chair of Human Services Department

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The committee voted to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2006 meeting.

AGENDA 1. Approval of New Programs and Program Changes

Morita Therapy Certificate (Human Services Dept.)

Schmidt moved to approve the program and the motion was seconded. Brian Ogawa guided the committee through an explanation of Morita Therapy and how it might be used through the certificate program. Brian said that Morita Therapy comes out of Eastern cultures and while relatively new in the United States, it has long been a recognized approach in dealing with life difficulties or life conditions/ challenges. For the students in Human Services it will be an additional tool in helping their clients and certainly a value-added to their degree. Washburn will be the only university in the United States to offering this certificate and it has great potential for growth and prestige. This is not a licensure program. After some further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA 2 - Review of Discussions Regarding EN, MA, and PE University Requirements.

Dr. Nobo announced that Dr. Dan Royer will be coming to campus, probably in February.

Jorge suggested that between minutes of our last four meetings and the recommendations of the various curriculum committees, the Academic Affairs Committee may be in a position to make some tentative recommendations about the three programs. He proposed that the committee consider the Physical Education University requirement (PE 198) first.

As the committee members discussed the requirement, the following tentative suggestions/recommendations were developed (not as official committee recommendations but as brainstorming ideas):

1. As a University requirement, a "C" grade should be required to pass the course (which means the P/F option for PE 198 would be eliminated.)
2. Transfer students who get Washburn credit for a PE activity should be able to enroll in a lecture section.
3. Perhaps the PE Dept. could broaden its evaluation of transfer student transcripts to allow PE 198 credit for students who may have taken multiple related courses, such as Nutrition, Personal Health, Stress Management, etc. rather than focusing only on a specific PE course.
4. Modify the Transfer Student Advising Guides so that courses taken at another institution for which the lecture portion is accepted by Washburn should be highlighted with its own special color.
5. Perhaps PE should offer a lecture section only to meet the needs of those students whose activity class has been accepted by Washburn. While this might create a logistical problem, it could be limited to transfer students only.

Smith moved that, since the Academic Units generally did not respond regarding the University requirements, the divisions and schools should be solicited for feedback on the following

Committee recommendations: (1) the Committee recommends that PE 198, Lifetime Wellness, continue to be a University Requirement; (2) that at least a "C" grade be required for passing the course, thereby removing the pass/fail option; (3) that a special lecture section of PE 198 be created for transfer students who took a class where the activity portion was accepted by Washburn but the lecture portion was not; and, (4) that the Transfer Student Advising Guides be modified such that courses in which partial credit for the lecture component (but not the activity component) will be highlighted with its own special color. Munzer second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair of the Committee suggested we turn our attention to the Mathematics University Requirement (MA 110/MA 116). It was noted that most of the Academic Units failed to make any criticisms or suggestions about any of the University Requirements and it was suggested that many of the units do not consider University Requirements to be General Education Requirements and thus, the scarcity of comments. The School of Nursing, however, did have some areas of concern about the mathematics preparation of its students. The Committee tried to understand the nature of the criticism but came to the conclusion that it might be reading something into the criticism that was not intended.

Shaun moved that the School of Nursing be asked to provide more information and/or clarification about the following comment: "Students have not been adequately prepared to meet the expectations for math and writing. Nursing students must have algebraic

skills to calculate medication doses. We are currently testing the students to document competency in this skill. Students get three opportunities to pass the exam at 100% and often several students must utilize all three testing situations to provide evidence of competence. The skills are basic ratio and proportion, division and multiplication skills and conversion (ounces to milliliters, etc.)" Motion passed.

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the committee will be Monday, February 5, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.