

Washburn University
Faculty Senate Minutes
February 5, 2024

Present: Altus, Barraclough, Camarda, Cook, Cook-Cunningham, Dahl, DeSota, Friesen, Grant, Hansen, Harnowo, Hartman, Heusi, Holt, Kay, Kendall-Morwick (J.), Kendall-Morwick (K.), Lolley, McGuire, McHenry, Modelmog, Ricklefs, Scofield, Sneed, Steffen, Toerber-Clark, Wagner

Absent: Hakenewerth, Kowalska, Miller, Porta, Rivera

Guests: Bailes, Ball, Broxterman, Chang, Erby, Hutchinson, Lanning, Memmer, Morse, Nizovtsev, O'Neill, Shipley, Stephenson, Wade

- I. The meeting was called to Order at 3:02
- II. The minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting of Faculty Senate were approved without amendment.
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - All guests be sure to sign in.
 - It should be a robust discussion today.
 - Remember there are a lot of things coming before Faculty Senate this semester regarding general education. Please plan to respect and work with one another, regardless of the spaces we are coming from.
 - Faculty lunches are in the works; please keep an eye out for an email.
 - February 21st from 9 am until 12 noon, Ricklefs and Enos will put on a training to review prevention on active assailants. There will be dialog with colleagues regarding how to prevent escalation. Unsure if this will be recorded.
- IV. WUBOR/KBOR Update
 - KBOR has not met since the last report. They are still focused on the faculty award we are not part of.
 - WUBOR met last week.
 - The strategic framework was adopted.
 - Henderson had a name change to Advisors Excel Hall.
 - The name of the new recital hall was announced, Dr. James Hurd Recital Hall.

- The Faculty Senate President will be visiting WUBOR again this spring to report the status on our efforts.

V. VPAA/Provost Update – Stephenson

- The strategic framework was adopted. Next steps will be to use this to guide the goals and plans for the next year.
- The first general education workshop took place last week. There is another on February 7th at 3 pm in Henderson 112. There will be a video of this available online.
- Interviews for the Law school dean were completed last week. Expect an announcement in the next few weeks.
- Fritch has started the process for a dean search for CAS. The advert will be posted soon after their arrival. He will be on campus on the 19th and will attend Faculty Senate for an introduction.
 - A welcome reception will take place on February 21st from 3:30 to 4:30 in Morgan.
- Update from Chang
 - There is an online course improvement project taking place to address the lack of quality guidelines and consistency across the university. This is meant to help with HLC requirements.
 - The focus is ensuring course materials are accessible and all online courses are designed in a way to minimize distraction and provide support for learning and engagement.
 - Other concerns
 - New requirements from the USDOE for all online courses to include substantive interaction with faculty.
 - ADA needs are also being addressed.
 - There are seventeen faculty and staff on a task force from a variety of academic units, CTCL, IT, and the office of accommodations.
 - The plan is to first create guidelines, e.g. communication benchmarks; then a plan to roll these out in phases.
 - The task force will work with the student success center to create a standard online course template.
 - There will be regular newsletters released regarding this process.

- Guidelines created will not infringe on faculty academic freedom.
- Wagner asked about what was included as communication. Regular feedback and introductions to the modules are among the interactions that will count as communication.
- Altus asked about setting up adjunct courses and support they might have for that. Unclear what this might look like.

VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports

- The minutes of Academic Affairs committee meeting of November 27, 2023, were approved.

VII. Old business

- 24-18 modifications to the catalog reflecting new catalog requirements (2024 and forward). Altus moved to review; Cook seconded.
- Ball and O'Neill were making the language consistent with current general education requirements. Removed the documents regarding the use of general education for major courses. The general education requirements state that we cannot prohibit double dipping for those transferring in.
- Modellmog made a request for clarification.
- Ball explained that there is currently a prohibition on general education courses counting towards a major. This prohibition has been removed in the current document passed by AAC.
- Kendall-Morwick (K) suggested the prohibition to be tweaked to match the current distribution requirement categories.
- If the prohibition is put back in – how will this exist?
- Lolley noted that it would be beneficial for her students. If they took anatomy elsewhere as a general education course, this prohibition might prevent program requirements for her program from counting in both locations. Ball indicated that this is different as her program is not the major discipline it is taught in.
- Cook indicated that due to the 120-hour requirement, we should not prevent our students from getting the same treatment as transfers. Scofield was also concerned that this will encourage our students to go elsewhere for certain courses.
- Modellmog and Morse noted that the social sciences division is not in favor of the practice of double dipping.

- Advising issues were discussed. If we do ensure prohibition, regardless of whether we are working with a transfer or a student who has started here, we can still have conversations of the pros and cons of taking courses elsewhere. If we treat students differently, it may be more difficult for advising.
- Cook suggested a focus on major course requirements. Morse indicated that it is all about who owns the curriculum. The transferring in of courses has always been a reality, but there is a need to ensure students have as diverse an education as possible. As History is now going to be considered Humanities, this cuts down on another course that could be taken to make a well-rounded student.
- Feedback in the Humanities has not been in favor of double dipping, as it is not in the spirit of general education and narrows the student experience. If we keep prohibition now, we can change the language later (Kendall-Morwick, K)
- Steffen voiced concern with encouraging students to take general education courses elsewhere.
- Wagner asked whether there is any issue for programs with more flexibility to advise students to take a wider range of courses.
- Cook and Morse indicated that they would like to see their majors take major courses here.
- Ball clarified that this is irrelevant as these courses are always transferred in; things only change in terms of how courses count. We need to keep all students in mind.
- Kendall-Morwick (J.) asked about the concern that 100 level courses for a major are taken elsewhere. Indicated there may also be students who will need to decide whether to take another general education course or leave transfers as is – double dipping.
- The prohibition protects the college as there are designated credits in CAS for a degree. Unsure it matters which program the general education courses are taken in (Scofield).
- SOBU has required courses from CAS along with the university requirements. A good way forward is to give everyone freedom to decide. All departments can specify in their program requirements what they want students to take (Nizovtsev)
- Ricklefs clarified that as the document is currently written, the prohibition of double dipping is removed. We treat everyone the same. At this point, anyone can submit suggestions to review how this may impact us and propose something else. The next stop is General Faculty, and it can still be revised.

- Modellmog's concern is that when students are in their major, they only want to take those courses or those that are similar.
- As we don't yet know the outcomes of these changes, we can always modify the curriculum to ensure people are getting what they need in our programs (McGuire).
- Kendall-Morwick (J.) asked if there is a no vote, does this go back to be rewritten?
- It needs to go forward, whether it is amended (Ball).
- Scofield called the question; Friesen seconded. Vote to call to question did not pass.
- Other discussion regarding general education included the requirement to earn a C or better for general education. Other institutions do not have a requirement to earn a C in natural sciences. This could lead to complications. Are we planning to accept Ds or credit to pass for natural sciences (Lolley). Not all even require a C for English and Math.
- This will not matter regarding what is being discussed. The course can count as a D in general education but does not need to count in their major program (Nizovtsev).
- It was suggested that it will not matter, as they need to have the whole package to transfer it. Ball indicated that they do not have to take the whole package for it to transfer in.
- Toerber-Clark asked about high school students who take courses – will this count for gen ed? According to Lanning it will count.
- Cook asked when the adjustments to natural sciences were decided. This took place in faculty senate quite a while ago. There may have been confusion due to science not being part of the core courses (Wagner).
- Lolley moved for an amendment to change language regarding natural sciences with lab. It should indicate that areas one through three rather than one through four require a C or better. Hartman seconded the motion.
- Heusi suggested that a D here in natural sciences is an A or B elsewhere. They need these courses as prerequisites for nursing, but not all degrees. Would prefer students to take natural sciences courses here.
- The amendment passes to change language from one through four to one through three.
- Discussion returned to the original document sent forward by AAC. As is, all courses for all students are treated the same way. The document was approved with three dissenting.

- This will go forward as an action item to General Faculty.
- Friesen asked about new degree sheets or a template for distribution. Per O'Neill, there is a degree map template, but not for specific programs. There is not a plan to create department specific advising sheets. This will be located in the audits when the registrar receives degree plans.

VIII. Announcements

- Next Tuesday, there is a Mardi Gras themed Assessment Extravaganza complete with a proper King Cake (Kendall-Morwick, K.)

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 4:29.