

Minutes
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
September 26, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 P.M. 230 Student Services Building

Present: R Panneton, (Chair); D. Thorp; S. Taheri; L. Cavuoto; B. Watford for R. Benson; D. Stauffer; M. Denbow; A. Nelson; S. Bennett; D. Smith; A. Scripa; J. Sible for L. Nam Chang; J. Penven; S. Sumner for A. Grant; R. Holloway; Y. Stivachtis; A. Hawthorne; V. Fowler; D. Zahm; S. McMullin; J. Rankin; J. Browder

Absent with Notification: D. Patterson; G. Schurig; N. Dam; K. Heiter

Absent without Notification: R. Sorensen; L. Beecher

Visitors: W. Dean; M. Maloney; B. Hendricks; S. Corcoran; B. Goodell; M. Wolfe; T. Long; P. Winistorfer; S. Ott Rowlands

Call to Order and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Robin Panneton, Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Announcement of approval and posting of minutes

Robin Panneton announced the September 12, 2011 minutes were electronically approved and can be accessed via the University Registrar website.

Old Business

Resolution 2011-12.A “Resolution to Revise the Undergraduate Academic Eligibility Policy”, Second Reading. The motion to approve Resolution 2011-12.A, “*Resolution to Revise the Undergraduate Academic Eligibility Policy*”, effective Fall 2012, passed unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 2011-12.B “*Resolution for Renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials*”, First Reading.

Paul Winistorfer, Dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, provided summary background and justification for the requested department name change. Dean Winistorfer noted the evolution of the college and its departments have included department name changes for two of four departments. He noted their continued work in

curriculum revision across the college. As he explained, the name of the current department no longer reflects the discipline's mission or the faculty's expertise. Winistorfer described the diversification of faculty expertise in the wood sciences have broadened across the materials spectrum and include expertise in organic chemistry and materials science. He noted the faculty work in wood, a sustainable biomaterial, but also with other naturally derived polymers coming from fungi, algae and higher plants other than wood. The department currently supports 13 doctoral students in the Macromolecular Molecules Interface Institute (MII) and 16 students in the Macromolecular Science and Engineering (MACR) doctoral program. In explaining the nomenclature of biomaterials, Dean Winistorfer shared the thematic areas of teaching, research and engagement by the department's faculty include cellulosic drug delivery, naturally-derived nanomaterials, bioenergy, adhesives and bonding, green residential structures, lean manufacturing-supply-chain management and sustainable business practices, innovation-based manufacturing, advanced packaging systems, concept-to-market business development and other areas. He noted the specific challenge of the existing nomenclature reflects a lack of uniformity nationally. Federal agencies and grant opportunities fall under the materials umbrella, not under wood science and forest products, impacting their faculty who are active across the NSF, NIH and other agency arenas. During discussion, the College of Engineering asked for clarification on the justification of the department name change and future degree revisions or additions. Robin Panneton responded by clarifying that SCHEV does not require the actions to occur jointly. The College of Engineering indicated their understanding of the desire to better reflect the department's efforts but expressed concerns about student confusion as they have programs and courses also offered in biomaterials. Dr. Barry Goodell, department head for Wood Science and Forest Products, responded that the choice of sustainable biomaterials reflects the distinction between the two disciplines, especially in the area of biomedical biomaterials and the sustainable biomaterials. The college noted concern relative to the duplication of titles of existing College of Engineering courses and the currently proposed courses from Wood Science and Forest Products. Steve McMullin responded that the duplication was not intentional and they will review the course titles to assure clarity and remove duplication. Other members of the commission suggested alternate departmental names, such as Sustainable Forest Biomaterials or Sustainable Biobased Biomaterials to assure clarity and distinction from other biomaterials programs. Dr. Goodell responded that their recent surveys and collected data from other institutions and student interest responded more positively to a department named Biomaterials than Biobased Materials. Additionally, Dr. Tim Long, representing MII, expressed concern the name may misrepresent university efforts to a larger constituency. Dr. Goodell responded the faculty felt strongly as to the appropriateness of the suggested department name and did not believe the result would be disciplinary miscommunication either internal to the university or nationally. The Chair closed the discussion and reminded the membership the second reading would occur October 10, 2011.

Resolution 2011-2012.C Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education First Reading.

Dan Thorp presented Resolution 2011-2012.C *Policy on Untaught Courses in the Undergraduate Course Catalog and the Curriculum for Liberal Education*. Noting the existing policy for removal of untaught graduate level courses, Dan Thorp shared the concerns of Dr. Wubah as to the lack of similar policy action at the undergraduate level. Additionally, recent review by the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula revealed 7% approved CLE course offerings have not been offered in 5 years. The CLE joined in the concern that failure to remove the courses misleads students in their curricular planning and progress toward the degree. It was commented that this “bait and switch” technique harms students, especially in implying we offer certain classes that the University no longer offers. As Dan explained, the policy would allow his office to review during the Fall semester any untaught courses. Departments would have an opportunity to justify an extension. Absent approval to continue the course, Dan’s office would forward to the University Registrar a list of courses for removal from the undergraduate course catalog and/or from the approved listing of courses in the CLE.

Reports from Commission Committees/Sub-Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curricula

Diane Zahm presented the report of the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula meeting of September 16, 2011. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Committee on Undergraduate Curricula report of September 16, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

**For “First and Second Reading”
Unanimous Approval**

New Courses Effective Spring 2012

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Course: AT 0714 – Hardscape Materials and Installation

College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Course: BC 3004 – Construction & Society

New Courses Effective Fall 2012

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Course: TA 3514 – American Cinema Genres

Course: TA 3524 – The Cinema Director

Revised Checksheets Effective for Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2013

College of Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering

Reports from Commission Committees/Sub Committees

University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education

Dan Thorp presented the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education minutes of September 7, 2011. The motion was made and seconded to accept the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education minutes of September 7, 2011. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm

Submitted by,
Megan Maloney
Office of the University Registrar