

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Unapproved Minutes

November 21, 2017

Present:; Kenna Bolton Holz (HBJD); Amanda Zbacnik (EDL); Peter Cook (Natural Sci); Erin Aldridge (Music); Edie Wasyliszyn (SBE); Chad Vollrath (Comm Arts); Jeff Kirschling (Registrar); Tom Tu (CETL); Jim Geidner (HHP); Wendy Kropid (WLLC); Sergei Bezroukov (MCS); Eric Edwards (SI, Secretary)

Unrepresented: Jamie White-Farnham (WLS, Chair) (see below for explanation); Olawole Famule (Visual Arts); Monica Roth Day (Academic Affairs); Janie Campbell (Registrar's Office)

Guests: Katelyn Baumann (Academic Service-Learning)

The meeting of the University Undergraduate Academic Affairs Council was called to order at 2:32 p.m. by Secretary Eric Edwards in Swenson 3004. Chairperson Jamie White-Farnham is absent due to a schedule conflict.

Item for vote: nomination and election of President Pro Tempore.

- Motion to nominate Eric Edwards (declined by Eric).
- Motion to nominate Wendy Kropid (Eric/Kenna). Approved unanimously.

At this time, Wendy took over running the meeting.

Move to approve agenda (Amanda/Peter). Approved unanimously.

Motion to approve November 7, 2017 minutes (Peter/Erin). Approved unanimously.

Reports

- Chair: No report.
- Secretary: No report.
- University Studies: No report.
- Registrar: No report.
- Dean of Academic Affairs: No report.

Items for Discussion/Information

Noted as received:

1. Natural Science - PHYS 201 description change. Peter explained why he is adding thermodynamics to the 201 course (i.e., to support students transferring to UMD's engineering program).

Items up for a Vote

1. AS-L course designation - CSCI 499

- Katelyn Baumann from ASL spoke in favor of the course. It has been approved by the ASL committee.
- Motion to approve (Sergei/Peter). Approved unanimously.

2. AS-L course designation – WRIT 490

- Katelyn Baumann from ASL spoke in favor of the course. It has been approved by the ASL committee.
- Motion to approve (Erin/Amanda). Approved unanimously.

3. Natural Science - addition of COMM 110 and GEOL 120 to Pre-Engineering emphasis

- Motion to approve: (Peter/Sergei). Approved unanimously.

4. Natural Science - Biology Teaching major (EA-A) catalog changes

- The two majors had been identical – this is a move to bring them back into step with each other.
- Jeff K – change of section from 9 to 13? Peter – yes, that’s the intention.
- Motion to approve: (Amanda/Peter). Approved unanimously.

More Discussion

1. Discussion and/or ideas related to the suspension of majors and minors

- Wendy – at some point there should be a statement, as the suspension directly affects curriculum/academic affairs. This may have created some “raw edges” that otherwise might have been attended to.
- Peter – not clear what the warning is. If all of the items under the warning list are cut, we will have one STEM major on campus.
- Wendy – would also have one secondary teaching major. Should have had some input at this level.
- Kenna – clarification about why admin thought it was best not to include us. Did they forget we existed, did they think we would be ineffective? Request feedback about this.
- Chad – would be good to get that on paper
- Peter – bylaws: we are an advisory committee to administration. Wendy – we are a council of the Senate, but the senate is advisory to admin.
- Erin – clarified what our bylaws stated.
- Peter – if the chancellor does not want our advice, what are we doing? (2b of bylaws)
- Kenna – it’s clear our advice was not wanted.
- Jim – admin continues to hold that they asked our advice three years ago.
- Erin – question: what can we do to better support senate? Do we act alone? Do we talk about 2b? What is the most powerful way that we can be used?
- Wendy – we do need to wait and see what Senate might want to do.
- Kenna – we can send our questions and comments to senate right now.
- Wendy – why were we bypassed? Why were we not given the chance to advise?
- Wendy – if we were included in the discussion initially, we would have had some valuable input before the decisions were made.
- Chad – would not be opposed to a statement from UAAC. As a body who adjudicates curricular decisions, we should have a say. Opaque reasons for decisions being made. Not out of character to have a collectively signed, strongly worded letter.
- Kenna – we could outline the problems that this creates for the curriculum (had they brought it to us in the first place).

- Wendy – more general statement could be made about what the process should have looked like in the first place (in addition to what Kenna said above). (Plus: don't do it again in the future.)
- Peter – this seems within UAAC's charge of monitoring the curriculum.
- Wendy – should be a coordinated effort with Senate.
- Jim – we should ask faculty senate.
- Erin – for transparency's sake, we should report to faculty senate that we would like to do this.
- Wendy – we should tell Senate that it's our responsibility to do this.
- Peter – can we request from Admin to define the warning list? Kenna – I think senate exec has already done this. Wendy – we can ask
- Kenna – suggestion in HBJD that APRC take on the criteria for "warning".

Motion to adjourn (Kenna/Amanda).

Adjourned 3:10 pm.

Next meeting: December 5, 2017