Arts and Sciences Chairs' Council
Monday, April 22, 2019

MINUTES

Present: Bruce Mattingly, Vincent DeTuri, Mary McGuire, Seth Asumah, Vaughn Randall, Steven Broyles, Gregory Phelan, Paul van der Veur, Kathleen Burke, Wendy Miller, David Barclay, Randi Storch, Alexandru Balas, David Dickerson, Paulo Quaglio, Kevin Halpin, Sebastian Purcell, Brice Smith, Robert Spitzer, Herbert Haines
Absent: Andrea Harbin
Guest: Gigi Peterson

Administrative Update

- Request from Ginny Levine on March 29, faculty signing up for commencement are down from last year; request to encourage faculty to attend
    - Commencement committee request – please participate outside department
- Request from Gary Evans; when we talk about faculty teaching schedules, no faculty has the right to a 2-day teaching schedule
- PSA from John Cottone; reminder about program level SLO changes due May 1
    - Provost will send similar announcement by email
- UUP contract, in 2023 new baseline for adjuncts up to $3250 For 3 credit course
    - Fall 2019 $2875, yearly increase of $125 to get to target
    - Will scale to credit hours; need to adjust for lab courses
    - Summer salary minimum is $3000, will it change? – don't know
- Five faculty received Fine Teaching Award; all from A&S – Congratulations!

Associate Dean's Report

- Eliminate/minimize internship applications for the Fall semester during add/drop week
    - Students interested in Fall internships need to have their applications complete before July 1

Personnel

- Two searches going on this week
- If there are any late requests please get these to Bruce

Old Business

- Program and course level student learning outcomes
    - Request to submit course level SLO as catalog changes, NOT curriculog
    - Is there a limit to the number of course SLOs? – find out
    - Review of syllabi; what is required on syllabi, is there one spot for this?
        - What is the proper version of the language for syllabi statements
    - What about listing assignments on the syllabus?
        - Follow up to EPC or faculty senate

New Business

- Replacement of non-faculty computers
    - Faculty computers are on a four year replacement cycle
    - Trying to get a similar replacement cycle for administrative cycles and other computers
        - Several computers are running Win 7; obsolete Jan 2020
        - In Chemistry some instrumentation needs to have an old computer – resolution with is take off network
    - Bruce will get a start on working with departments to identify computers running Win 7 and identify a solution
    - Replacing adjunct computers, on a five year replacement cycle
        - Adjunct computers will be taken away at the end of semester
        - New computers will be locked, everything will be mapped to the U drive
        - Issues with not enough space in U drive
        - Trouble accessing U drive remotely
        - Using One Drive is an option
- Major and Program standard GPA definitions
    - Two issues to clarify when calculating major GPA
        - Excluding failed courses in the GPA when course is retaken
        - All courses required in the major
    - What is the motivation for the program GPA?
        - What is this trying to fix?
    - What about courses outside the major?
        - What is part of the program?
        - The major GPA should reflect the students totality of all courses in the department
    - The document from EPC is not clear about the curriculum change process
    - A meeting last year brought this forward and faculty concerns were not considered in putting this final document together
    - Herb Haines and Brian Williams will bring concerns to Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday April 23.
        - Detailed summary of discussion provided to Herb and Brian:

<u>From Mary:</u>

Major GPA is generally understood by Arts and Sciences faculty to refer to the GPA earned in all courses within a student's academic discipline, as opposed to all the courses taken to fulfill requirements to graduate with their major.

This traditional major GPA is important for determining who meets requirements for honor societies.

The traditional major GPA claculation is what is meant by students need a 2.0 in their major to graduate with that major. Switching to all courses required for a major and relying on Degreeworks's program, which uses only the most recent courses that meet a sub requirement could put students at a disadvantage for meeting requirements for student teaching, moving from waiting status or graduating. For example a student in Psychology may have a sub 2.0 in the major due to poor performance in "related areas." This would be further complicated if the student took more than the required psychology courses because in all of the Psychology sub fields Degreeworks would only count the most recent course taken. If the student's most recent sub field courses were not his/her highest the earlier strong grades would not mitigate the GPA damage done from the related fields courses.

Major GPA may be required by graduate schools and would need to be independently calculated.

Efforts to standardize the Degreeworks for the sake of standardization won't reflect the reality of the major GPA is used for. It ignores that requirements and sub requirements are not standard across departments.

From Bruce:

1. The proposed definition for Major GPA includes “all courses identified in the college catalog as *required* for the major.” (Emphasis added.) If a student takes additional courses beyond the minimum requirements, will these be included in the major GPA? For instance, the Biology major requires a minimum of 36 credit hours in BIO courses, including 21 hours that are specified and an additional 15 credit hours of BIO electives at the 210 level or above. If a student takes 18 or more hours of BIO electives, will they all count in the Major GPA calculation? (The consensus among department chairs is that they should all count.)
2. In the above example, if all of the additional elective hours do not count in the Major GPA calculation, how is it determined which of the 15 elective hours get included?
3. One of the attachments distributed with the agenda for the April 23 Faculty Senate meeting was a short Power Point presentation. The second slide on page 2 shows a proposed example from Biology. It shows that the Major GPA would be computed from 36 credit hours in BIO, along with 26 additional credit hours in related science and math courses. It also shows that the Program Standard GPA would be computed only from the 36 credit hours in BIO. Some chairs felt that these labels should be reversed. They believe that the term “Major GPA” is better understood as the GPA determined from courses offered by the home department, and not by other required courses from other departments needed to round out a program of study.
4. Representatives from the adolescence education programs pointed out that teacher candidates are required to complete a minimum of two semesters of a foreign language. This would suggest that SPA 102 would be included in the Major GPA calculation for a student in Adolescence Education: Mathematics. Similar comments would apply for students in Adolescence Education Biology, Earth Science, etc. The consensus among chairs was that such courses should not be included in the major GPA.

5. It is difficult to establish a consistent definition for Major GPA, because there are inconsistencies in the ways in which program requirements are currently listed in the catalog. Some examples:
    a. There is not a clear separation between program requirements and general education requirements. In some cases, programs have identified required courses that simultaneously satisfy a major requirement along with a GE category.
    b. Headings such as “Professional Preparation”, “Related Courses” and “Additional Requirements” are used differently in the descriptions of different majors.

Announcements and Deadlines

DSI self-nominations due to department chairs July 12, 2019