

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

October 24, 2008

204 Whitehurst

MINUTES

Present: Raj Basu, Celeste Campbell, Bob Davis, Robert Dooley, Leigh Goodson, Ed Miller, Shiretta Ownbey, Mark Payton, Chris Ross, David Thompson, Mark Weiser, Mike Morris, and Gail Gates.

1. Entrepreneurship Degree/Minor – Mark Weiser and Mike Morris

Dr. Weiser introduced Dr. Mike Morris, currently at Syracuse University, as the new department head for the entrepreneurship program at OSU. Dr. Morris commented that there is a clear sense that entrepreneurship needs to infect the entire campus and we need to find a way to reach students a crossed campus. Entrepreneurship is commonly thought of as a self indulgent idea, teaching students to run their own business but it is much more than that. It is more about addressing community and social issues by taking sound risks. The program can and should be a part of all disciplines. Members asked if a student should be encouraged to complete this minor in the beginning of their academic career and Dr. Morris replied that it might prove to be more effective to take the courses after learning more about the discipline so that the educational experience can be applied. Dr. Morris noted that Syracuse University has an enrollment of 18,000 students, 2,000 students are taking entrepreneurship classes and 65% are from the business school.

2. OSU Experience – Matt Beier

Matt noted that students, especially freshmen, are not familiar with the different administrative branches of the University and explained that Student Affairs wanted to heighten the student's awareness of the functions of those branches and of helpful resources available to them. Student Affairs has created a website called "The OSU Experience" (www.theosuexperience.com) with the 6 pillars (Academic Excellence, Leadership, Service/Civic Engagement, Finding Your Purpose, Broadening Your Horizons, and Wellness). Please let Matt know if you have resources to share.

3. Petition for Excessive Hours – Celeste Campbell

Dr. Campbell commented that there had been a request for clarification of the process at the Registrar's Office in regards to the Excessive Hours Petitions. Dr. Campbell encourages individuals to fill out the form completely but noted that modifications can be made to the process at the Registrar's Office. Dr. Campbell and members agreed that in cases that do not require Dr. Gates' signature it would be acceptable to include only the session, total hours per session, reason and signatures.

4. Students Pursuing a Second Degree in the Same Major with Different Options (Academic Regulation 3.10) – Celeste Campbell

Members suggested striking the last sentence to the policy. Members approved the proposed language with the removal of the last sentence.

5. Absence of Signatures on Degree Sheets that are Provided Online – Celeste Campbell

Dionne Boling asked that Dr. Campbell discuss the absence of signatures on the degree sheets. Dionne had received comments that the signatures should be on the on-line degree sheets as individuals like to print copies and wanted a copy with the signature as it appears to be more official and suggested using an electronic signature. Dionne checked with some of the other Big XII schools and they didn't publish electronic signatures. Members suggested leaving the signature off and inserting a statement "Signature on File".

6. Consistent Use of OSRHE-Approved Degree Names on SIS, Undergraduate Programs and Requirement Book, Diploma, and Transcript – Celeste Campbell

Dr. Campbell noted that degree names are listed in a variety of places (SIS, undergraduate programs and requirements, diploma and transcript) and the Registrar's Office has discovered inconsistencies in the degree names between these places. The Registrar's Office would like degree names to be consistent. The authoritative source should be what the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) approved. Dr. Campbell provided members with a list of degree names (for example, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration) and the Registrar's Office has assigned a 4 letter code to each of the degrees as their identifier for all of the programs. Dr. Campbell requested that members take a look at the list and let her office know if they wanted to change the 4 letter code. Dr. Campbell noted that different degrees cannot have the same code. Members asked if the code or degree name would appear on the diploma and Dr. Campbell noted that the degree name would be printed on the diploma. Members asked if their office would consider adding a third line to the diploma to list the option and Dr. Campbell said that she could inquire into that possibility. Dr. Campbell asked that members visit with their departments about the change and give her any feedback.

7. Posthumous Degree Policy for Doctoral Students – Mark Payton

Members approved the proposed wording to the OSU Policy and Procedures 2-0114. Section 1.01 regarding to the awarding of posthumous degrees to doctoral students pending approval by Graduate Council.

8. "PR" Grade – Mark Payton

Will be discussed in the next meeting.

9. Retention and Graduation Rates of New Freshmen and Transfers – Gail Gates

Dr. Gates noted that the council did not have time to discuss this issue today but asked members to think about ways to contact students who did not return to OSU. Dr. Gates noted that since the Bureau for Social Research closed the university will have to figure out a system to assess the retention issue. Dr. Gates has contacted Kyle Wray to see if admission callers could help. Members noted that the university needs to find out the real reasons students don't stay in school. Bob Davis has requested data from Institutional Research and Information Management (IRIM) and Dr. Campbell noted that she had requested information as well and both should have the data within a couple of weeks. Members asked that Dr. Gates send them the results of the 2007 Retention Report. Discussion to continue in the next meeting.

10. Other

Dr. Gates noted that the Directors of Student Academic Services (DSAS) were in favor of keeping the 2003-04 Bachelor of University Studies plan with modifications. She'll bring a proposal to Instruction Council after the Directors of Student Academic Services approve the changes.

Adjourn: 10:35 a.m.