

**INSTRUCTION COUNCIL**  
**September 17, 2010**  
**204 WH**  
**MINUTES**

Present: Celeste Campbell, Bruce Crauder, Bob Davis, Bavette Miller, Ed Miller, Shiretta Ownbey, Jeremy Penn, Chris Ross, David Thompson, Jean Van Delinder, Mark Weiser, Bob Sternberg, Tina Meier, Regan Carruthers, and Gail Gates.

**1. Provost Bob Sternberg**

Provost Sternberg commented that President Hargis had received letters from a few parents disappointed with Oklahoma State University's (OSU) rankings in the US News and World Report. Dr. Sternberg explained that he did not feel that it was appropriate to consider the ranking of a land grant institution in the US World and News Report because the report does not rank institutions by mission. The mission of land grant institutions is to provide access to higher education so it is not important to have high test scores or selectivity ratios. Dr. Sternberg believes OSU and other land grant universities should be measured on how much value the institution was able to add to the students. Dr. Sternberg also mentioned that he believe OSU should be providing more need-based financial aid and scholarships. He has asked Martha McMillian and Marilyn Middlebrook to work on a proposal to enhance support services for all students on campus. He plans to solicit help from donors to support this proposal. Dr. Sternberg believes OSU needs to focus on support systems to strengthen three student initiatives: (1) Academic Support, (2) Personal Navigation, and (3) Self Advocacy. Members asked if "Student Independence" should be added as well and Dr. Sternberg agreed this was important.

**2. Curricular Requests**

**College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources**

**ENTOMOLOGY, GRADUATE MINOR**  
**New Program**

The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in the College Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources proposes to establish a graduate Minor in Entomology as many research areas include a heavy emphasis on insects. Students gaining advanced degrees in Veterinary medicine, Natural Resources, Zoology, etc. may focus on insects as their research model and acquire an emphasis in Entomology. This minor will reflect that emphasis.

Members approved.

**PLANT PATHOLOGY, GRADUATE MINOR**  
**New Program**

The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in the College Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources proposes to establish a graduate Minor in Plant Pathology as many research areas include a heavy emphasis on Plant Pathology. Students gaining advanced degrees in Botany, Natural Resources, Plant and Soil Sciences or Horticulture, etc. may focus on plant disease as a part of their focus and acquire an emphasis in Plant Pathology. This minor will reflect that emphasis.

Members approved.

## College of Education

### ATHLETIC TRAINING, BS (434) Program Modification: Option Deletion

Option Deletion – Teacher Preparation (Physical Education)

The College of Education at Oklahoma State University requests the option deletion as the Teacher Preparation (Physical Education) option is a duplication with the Physical Education degree.

Members approved.

## Graduate College

### INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, CERTIFICATE (425) Program Modification: Change of Program Name

Change of Program Name: Global Issues, Certificate

The Graduate College at Oklahoma State University request the program name change as many individuals receiving this certificate choose to pursue the Masters of Science degree in International Studies. The similarity of the degree names has led to some confusion in identifying the two different degrees. The name change will separate the two for distinction.

Members approved.

### 3. **CourseSmart Presentation – Regan Carruthers and Tina Meier**

Regan is a representative for CourseSmart but prior to working for CourseSmart, she worked for the State of California as the digital content representative. She will also be meeting with the bookstore and Information Technology. The bookstore is a member of the National Retail Alliance as is CourseSmart. CourseSmart is the largest provider of eTextbooks with over 14,000 textbook titles. The company's goal was to create a one-stop shop for eTextbooks either by downloading or by web access. The eTextbooks provide a 60% discount over new books so the price is comparable to used books. Another service provided by CourseSmart is a program that provides instant access for faculty textbook review. Members noted some concern that faculty would expect students to print entire eTextbooks in the computer labs resulting in significant increases in printing costs to the university. Regan explained that students are only allowed to print a few chapters of an eTextbook at a time. Members also expressed a desire to allow students the option to keep the books after the semester ends, perhaps by paying an additional fee. Regan said that members can have access to the data on the future of eTextbooks by visiting the website <http://wp.nmc.org/horizon2010/> and viewing the Horizon Report. Dr. Gates commented that the bottom line is that this is the way of the future and OSU needs to figure out the best way to implement the process. Regan emphasized that CourseSmart has integration with other publishers and OSU is already a part of the affiliation. Tina asked who would be the point of contact for each college and members provided the contact names. Members are in favor of giving faculty instant access to CourseSmart's textbook review application immediately.

### 4. **Centralized "No-Show" Identification and Communication – Celeste Campbell**

Celeste noted that the Registrar's Office has been making a centralized effort to get information from a variety of entities to improve "No-Show" identification and communication. It is the responsibility of the students to cancel their enrollment but it is also the university's responsibility to identify these students. The goal is to use a variety of strategies to know if a student is not attending class and to send a letter to the student telling them about the petition process. The Registrar's Office is trying to identify these students within the "W" drop period so they won't have to petition for a late drop and grade changes. Members asked if other institutions have processes for administratively withdrawing students who do not attend. Celeste commented that Northern Oklahoma College (NOC) has a process for assigning "AW" and Tulsa Community College (TCC) drops students if they have not

paid tuition by the time classes begin. Members asked if there was some way to confirm attendance. It was noted that there are different models and ways to address this with involvement from the advising areas. Discussions to continue.

**Adjourn: 10:40 a.m.**