

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 7, 2014

Present: Raj Basu, Celeste Campbell, Cynda Clary, Bob Davis, Shiretta Ownbey, Chris Ross, Mark Weiser, Tom Wikle, Sarah Gordon, Steve Rogers, Pam Ehlers, Lee Bird, Tim Huff, Richard Shepard, and Brenda Masters.

1. **Student Insurance – Lee Bird, Steve Rogers, and Tim Huff**

Dr. Bird noted that there had been attempts to make sure international students have an opportunity to have appropriate health insurance coverage. In many cases, international students are not able to get the health insurance coverage they need, specifically the repatriation coverage. The coverage on these policies is sorely inadequate, leaving doctors and hospitals unpaid. Student Affairs and the University Health Center is in the process of moving to requiring international students to purchase the current student health insurance package presently available as an option to all OSU students and is provided to teaching and graduate assistants. There are plans such as Obama Care and other insurance packages available to students that would provide coverage. The problem is that students try to save costs by selecting plans that do not have sufficient coverage. The proposed health insurance requirement would not be inconsistent from our peer institutions. OSU wants to standardize and simplify this issue from the administrative standpoint. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates coverage but doesn't address compliance. Currently student insurance plans will rise significantly and they are working to address this. Presently half of the international student body has purchased health insurance plans.

2. **Curricular Requests**

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

NATURAL RESOURCE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT - MINOR

Minor Modification

Members approved.

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY – MINOR

Minor Modification

Members approved.

College of Arts and Sciences

ART HISTORY - MINOR

Minor Modification

Members approved.

College of Education

EDUCATION, BS (433)

Program Deletion

The College of Education at Oklahoma State University requests the program deletion as the program was developed to provide students an opportunity to be creative in building a personalized degree but with the creation of the Bachelors of University Studies (BUS), this program has become obsolete. Additionally, the degree is not a pathway to teacher education but has been mistaken as such. The deletion of the degree will help eliminate confusion.

Members approved.

SECONDARY EDUCATION, BS (182)
Option Suspensions

Options: Science (072) – suspension to become effective August 17, 2014
Mathematics (070) – suspension to become effective August 17, 2014

Members approved.

College of Human Sciences

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES, BSHS (097)
Option Suspensions

Options: Dietetics and Exercise (376) - suspension to become effective August 14, 2014
Nutrition and Exercise (377) - suspension to become effective August 14, 2014

Members approved

Dr. Campbell noted that the option suspensions will not be published in the Undergraduate Programs and Requirements book for 2014-15.

- 3. Finish in Four: Eight Semester Degree Maps for all Undergraduate Degree Programs – Brenda Masters**
Dr. Masters noted that the goal is to have eight semester degree maps for all undergraduate degree plans. A template has been developed by Dr. Devuyt. The template is designed to include minimum information. The eight semester maps can have different information but the goal is to have the degree maps look similar across colleges. If members have suggestions or comments for improvement, let Dr. Devuyt know. Dr. Clary asked for a statement on the eight semester degree map form noting that it is critically important that students consult their academic advisors. This should be on the form and on other marketing pieces. Send comments regarding the form and website in verbal communication to Dr. Devuyt. Need to get this completed by May 2014. Dr. Masters asked that members provide the status of their degree maps within the next week.
- 4. Tracking Employment Data on Graduates – Pam Ehlers**
Dr. Ehlers asked if members were aware of the College Scorecard from the Whitehouse. The College Scorecard provided clear, concise information on cost, graduation rate, loan default rate, amount borrowed, and employment for every degree-granting institution in the country. The Department of Education put a task force together this last year with representation from all levels of higher education and technical schools. A Negotiating Rule Committee was formed from this task force and a consensus could not be reached in regards to what is considered to be “employed after graduation”. A critical component is that the Federal Government has told the Department of Education that if they can’t agree on what educational training is needed to be considered employable, the Federal Government will make that decision for them. Career Services is attempting to gather this information before it will be required by the Federal Government or by the Department of Education. Career Services needs a 60% response rate from the University and each college. Please encourage your areas to participate. Members noted that even accreditation agencies will require this information in the future. Career Services solicits the survey information six months out from graduation. It was noted that a student’s OSU email address is permanent throughout their life and students need to be encouraged to stay connected with this email address. Dr. Ehlers noted that capstone courses would be a perfect opportunity to get the information from the students and send to Career Services. Members asked if the information already solicited by Career Services could be available to them and Dr. Ehlers noted that their office could provide that information. Dr. Ehlers also noted that their office does not post this information due to the fact that not all departments participate in the survey. Other ways to collect this information would be through a graduation or a financial aid survey. The surveys need to be coordinated throughout the university so that students aren’t receiving a dozen different exit surveys. Members asked to see the draft of the survey. Dr. Masters noted that the student’s okstate email address is a permanent email address and it would be beneficial

to figure out a way to encourage students to stay connected. Dr. Bird conducted some research with employers and it was concluded that in the past the lack of writing skills had been an issue but presently there is a lack of verbal communication in the workplace.

5. Adjustment to Academic Regulation 3.4: 30+10 General Education Standardization Between Colleges – Brenda Masters

Dr. Basu has a question regarding the second paragraph on page #2 of the document where it refers to “Only in the Analytical and Quantitative Thought (A) and Natural Sciences (N) areas is substitution of the more advanced lower-division course permitted.” Many of the Tulsa students will take upper-division courses to fulfill the “N” general education requirement. It was asked if the wording “lower-division” should be removed from the wording and Dr. Campbell noted that she would like to review University Academic Regulation 3.6 and check with the graduation certification staff and DSAS before any decision is made to revise the wording. It was noted that this is not new language; this wording was in the current policy. Dr. Masters asked Dr. Basu if he would accept the revisions to University Academic Regulation 3.4. with the exception of the second paragraph on page #2 of the document and he was agreeable to that. Dr. Masters went on to say that in the handouts there should be a copy of University Academic Regulation 3.4 and hopefully members have seen an example of the degree sheets in relation to the proposal. The purpose of this is to standardize the general education credit requirements across disciplines making it easier for students to transfer to a different college. Dr. Clary noted that she has some concerns about the proposal in that the college cores might have to be adjusted and possibly slow students down in completing their degrees. Dr. Wikle noted that his understanding of the proposal is to reduce some of the analytical/social science requirements and Dr. Masters note that this objective was never discussed in that content. The task force thought process was attempting to lower the general education requirements to come in line with OSRHE requirements. Dr. Weiser asked if this was approved and finalized and members responded that it was not and any suggested changes can be made. It was suggested to table this until the new curricular software can be implemented and members noted that it would be best to revisit this periodically, perhaps in the summer, to keep the discussions current and ongoing until such time the implementation occurs. Members tabled.

6. Other

Members are encouraged to attend the initial kick-off of the U-Teach event next Monday.

Adjourn: 10:30 a.m.