



Undergraduate Council Minutes

Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2008

Present:

Joanne Arhar, Natalie Caine-Bish, Alicia Crowe, Dale Curry, David Dees, Averil McClelland, Alexa Sandmann, Amy Thompson, Cary Hale (substituting for Kimberly Peers) and Charity Snyder. Also attending were guests: Dana Perlman (SELS), Joanna Liedel (VOSS), Lisa Froning (VOSS) and Recorder Deborah Burnsworth.

Opening:

J. Arhar opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. in Room 308D White Hall.

A. Items of Business

Minutes

A motion to accept the February 15, 2008 meeting minutes as amended was made by A. McClelland, seconded by D. Dees and unanimously approved.

Recommendation for faculty committee to be formed to review policy for probation and dismissal (J. Arhar)

The discussion was continued from the February 15, 2008 meeting; Joanna Liedel distributed a handout with data showing ranges of term GPAs of students who were not permitted to continue in their major because they failed to meet conditions of probation in regards to their GPA. The consensus was that while they would like to consider extending the probationary period from two to three semesters for students showing significant progress (2.75 or above GPA in a given semester), however given the small number of students involved would like to see how things play out 'mathematically' when the results of the first semester of the implementation of the new recalculation policy can be studied at the end of the Spring 2008 term. It was agreed to table this discussion for a semester.

SELS – (C. Hale and D. Perlman)

Proposal for curriculum changes to PEP 25026 Overview of Outdoor Pursuits and Adventure Education to the council for the second hearing. This proposal was presented initially at the February 15, 2008 meeting and was presented for review again by D. Perlman. These changes would better align with the new 2008 beginning physical education teacher standards and infuse a service learning project within the local schools to aid in the development and implementation of "outdoor education" within school physical education throughout Northeast Ohio. These changes were reviewed and unanimously approved by the SELS Curriculum Committee. Included is a recommendation to change the special course fees for this course from \$30/credit hour

(\$90/semester) to \$25/credit hour (\$75/semester), which is a 17% decrease. The fee will cover the cost of special activities that extend beyond the classroom setting; e.g., field trips or rental of off-campus facilities. It was moved to approve the proposal and unanimously passed. This will go to EPC for approval in the Fall 2008 catalog.

Proposal to establish a new course, ATTR 35040 Strength and Conditioning I was presented by C. Hale. This is an undergraduate course that has been developed specifically for students in the Athletic Training major as a requirement but may also be used by other programs as an elective. She stated the accrediting agency commended the school on the addition of this course to their curriculum. SELS would like to offer this course for Fall 2008 as a special topic and as a new course for Fall 2009. As a special topics course it does not need approval of the Undergraduate Council. Necessary changes and documents were discussed (including CCP and red-lined catalog copy); these changes will be made and the proposal will be presented again before the Fall deadline for Fall 2009 implementation.

Background Check Policy

J. Arhar distributed the revised proposal summary for the Revision of Student Teaching and Teacher Licensure Policy related to Background Checks. D. Dees recommended the sentence in the last paragraph referring to ‘Regional campus students should contact their “program coordinator...”’ to be changed to contact their *regional campus* coordinator. It was moved to accept the proposal to go into the undergraduate catalog for Fall 2008 in the (with the noted change), by A. Crowe and seconded by N. Caine-Bish; the proposal was accepted unanimously.

It was discussed that programs other than teacher education have field experiences and that faculty in those programs should be consulted as to a policy that would apply to their students. Joanne Arhar agreed to have this discussion with them. Teacher education coordinators will discuss background checks for field experiences. Graduate Council passed the same background check proposal.

Terms of Council Membership

Copies of the April 27, 2007 minutes and a handout listing membership names and terms on council were distributed. J. Arhar wanted to review this information. She stated students are always welcome to attend meetings, particularly when there is a matter which could be of interest, however there has been difficulty in the past having a student representative present due to their schedules and availability. The policy states “the term will be three years, with two representatives from each school at any given time”. It will be amended to include that there will be at least one regional campus representative on the council.

Major GPA (J. Arhar)

J. Arhar explained the issue related to major GPA: Inconsistency in determining the way GPA is calculated. In some programs, policy is to include all attempts at a course in the Major/Content/Professional Coursework in calculating the GPA. This was changed with the new recalculation policy which only counts the highest grade for 10000 and 2000 level courses. In teacher education programs, however, only the highest grade is used in

the calculation of GPA. Question: Should we be consistent? Is it fair to treat students in the same college differently?

During the discussion it was pointed out by N Caine Bish that accreditation requires that students use all attempts in the calculation of the GPA. After discussion it was agreed that although policies are not consistent between the three schools and the three departments, the policies that are in effect should remain and be enforced.

J Arhar also indicated that occasionally a faculty member will ask us to hand calculate the GPA throwing out the lower grades when a student takes a course more than once in an attempt to assist a student in progressing/graduating. This places advisors in a position of having to disregard the policy of using all attempts for an individual student who has a strong faculty advocate. Other students may not have such an advocate and cannot progress/graduate. We simply cannot do this. Members of Undergraduate Council agreed.

Other Business

J. Arhar attended the March 13th SUED meeting and reported there is a lot of pressure for students to get their degrees in four years. She stated the college will have to look at this internally.

N. Caine-Bish expressed concern that the Chemistry department would not always sign transient forms for students who took Chemistry at another institution. J Arhar indicated that if the Chemistry faculty want to change their formal agreements with other institutions about course equivalencies, they should do so through their department and the Provost. If a course is stated as an equivalent course on the OBR website, we must honor it.

Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Deborah Burnsworth for Joanne Arhar