COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

January 23, 2008

3:00-5:00

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: Larry Baum; Lora G. Dobos, Marcia E. Farr, E. Kay Halasek (Chair), John M. Robinson, W. Randy Smith (Vice-Chair), Brian L. Winer.

Student Members: Rose M. Babington, Adrienne Belt (Undergraduate Student Government); Robert Calhoun (Council of Graduate Students)

Guests: Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar, Office of the University Registrar; David Roy, Senior Assistant Director, Enrollment Services; Dr. John Wanzer, Senior Vice Provost, Enrollment Management; Kate Hallihan, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Professors Carolyn Merry, Chair, Hal Walker, and Linda Weavers, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science, and Robert Gustafson, Associate Dean, College of Engineering


• Farr moved approval of the Minutes of the meetings of November 28, 2007, December 5, 2007, and January 9, 2008. Winer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR E. KAY HALASEK

• The proposal from the School of Music to revise the undergraduate major was assigned to Subcommittee B.

• The University Research Committee is anxious to support the Council’s ongoing review/revision of the “centers” rule.

• The Chair of Faculty Council, Professor Robert Perry, continues to express interest in the ongoing work of this Council. Winer will attend the next Faculty Cabinet meeting for Halasek.
COMMENTS FROM THE VICE-CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

• At the University Senate meeting on February 7, 2008, Executive Vice President and Provost Alutto will be giving his first annual address. Recently approved proposals for the Doctor of Nursing Practice, and a new major in Biomedical Engineering, are on the Senate agenda for action.

• He met with Professor Robert Kaufman, Associate Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences regarding the status of revisions to the College’s proposal for regular clinical track faculty. Kaufman will take the Council’s suggestions to the College Executive Committee, and will recommend dropping paragraph VBi. If approved, the revised proposal will return to Council for action.

• He continues to meet with the Curricular Associate Deans (often accompanied by others) of the 18 colleges. Many are expressing interest in enhanced distance/distributed education and in enhanced international programs. There is also interest, notably in the Arts and Sciences, in “dual” enrollment – high school seniors taking selected courses (notably the languages) and earning university-level credit. Efforts to formalize such activity are underway.

• Three Dean searches have begun: College of Education and Human Ecology, College of Dentistry, and the Fisher College of Business.

• Dutta has been the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) contact for the new Electronic Course Approval system developed by the Registrars Office. There have been some issues about concurrence requests in this process. There is a need for colleges to be involved “before” the request for concurrences are sent out. After approval from the college, a request for concurrence will go out to all departments. The Colleges of the Arts and Sciences (ASC) currently specifies a window of time (2 weeks) to respond to a request for concurrence. Beyond that window if no response is received, it is assumed that the department grants concurrence. Should there be a similar practice institution-wide?

• There are several terms such as “environment”, “leadership”, “literacy”, and “sustainability” that are common to courses and programs in many colleges. For two years Smith has been meeting with a group on “environment” and that has worked well for information sharing. Meetings of similar groups related to other three terms are being scheduled.

• Membership for the University-Wide General Education Curriculum (GEC) Advisory Committee has been finalized. It will be convened soon.
PROPOSAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND GEODETIC SCIENCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING – PROFESSOR BRIAN L. WINER, SUBCOMMITTEE B

Winer gave an overview of the proposal. Environmental Engineering has been an option within Civil Engineering for many years. Environmental Engineering is an ABET (Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology) program area. Currently there is no undergraduate program in Environmental Engineering at this University. The national norm is for students wanting to pursue Environmental Engineering to receive a degree in Environmental Engineering. Our students pursuing the current Environmental Engineering option, have to take many of the civil engineering core courses and receive a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. This is deemed to not be appropriate. The new curriculum deletes 41 hours of civil engineering courses and adds 41 hours that are appropriate for an Environmental Engineering program - adding more chemistry courses and adhering to the national trend. The Department of Chemistry at first had reservations, but after reviewing the adjusted proposal, provided concurrence.

Questions raised by the Subcommittee were answered to their satisfaction. The proposal had dated GEC hours. With the revised GEC now in place, there will be a 5 hour reduction. The total hours required to complete the program will be 193. Subcommittee B recommends approval of the proposal.

Smith raised the question: how do students differentiate among the various environmental programs offered by seven different colleges?

DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSORS CAROLYN MERRY, CHAIR, HAL WALKER, LINDA WEAVERS, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND GEODETIC SCIENCE, AND ROBERT GUSTAFSON, ASSOCIATE DEAN, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Merry and Walker gave an overview of the proposal. The proposal does not request establishment of a new academic program. Rather it proposes the relabeling and restructuring of an existing program, the ABET-accredited Environmental Engineering Option in Civil Engineering, to bring it into closer conformity with the practices of other ABET-accredited programs in Environmental Engineering. This is a zero-cost proposal. All the required faculty, laboratories, courses, are already in place. In addition to the Environmental Engineering program, the environmental engineering faculty have many responsibilities in the Civil Engineering program, and in fact they teach one-eighth of all the student credit hours earned by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science.

Some kind of environmental engineering program has existed at the University since the establishment of the Department of Civil Engineering in the early 1870s. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science currently
offers an environmental engineering program leading to the BSCE, MS, and Ph.D degrees. When first accredited in 1993, the Environmental Engineering Option in Civil Engineering had two required courses totaling 7 required credit hours and 20 technical elective hours, for a total of 27 hours beyond the Civil Engineering core. Due to changes in the ABET criteria since 1993, CE 620, MicroBio 509, CE 511, CBE 771, and a capstone design course 511 were added to the Major Option. As a result of these mandatory changes, 24 credit hours became required, leaving only one elective hour. This situation was considered highly undesirable from an educational standpoint and unattractive to undergraduates.

Of the 47 ABET-accredited programs, this Environmental Engineering program is the only one to grant its graduates a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering; all other programs grant their graduates a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering degree. It is also the only program to require its majors to take the traditional civil engineering core curriculum. The proposed curriculum will put us in conformity with the standard practices of other ABET-accredited environmental engineering programs. Additionally, the Environmental Engineering option has to satisfy the ABET-accreditation criteria for both civil engineering and environmental engineering.

Can someone do a dual degree in civil engineering and environmental engineering? Any student can do a dual degree, but it will take a long time because there are not many course overlap. There is a minor in Environmental Engineering that can be taken by anyone.

It is not clear how having a separate major in Environmental Engineering will allow an upgrade of the existing MS/PhD graduate program in Environmental Engineering. Students with BSCE degrees wanting to do a MS/PhD in Environmental Engineering have to take remedial courses in chemistry, biology, and other topics important to environmental engineering. This will be eliminated with a BS in Environmental Engineering.

Because there are so many environmental programs existing, how can students differentiate and choose the right program? Environmental Engineering is an accredited program and other environment programs are not. Graduates of this program have to take a licensure exam to be a professional engineer. This is not a requirement for other environment programs. Students from an environmental science program may transfer to an environmental engineering program because of the professional career path. Smith suggested that some type of schematic is needed for students, to show them the various paths to the study of the environment that exist on campus. He and Dutta will work on this suggestion.

Smith added that if approved, this proposal will go to the University Senate and Board of Trustees for action. And Board of Regents’ approval will be needed for a new degree.

Subcommittee B moved approval of the proposal. It was seconded by Calhoun and the motion passed unanimously.
PROFESSORS E. KAY HALASEK AND W. RANDY SMITH – SUBCOMMITTEE D

- Proposal to Change the Credit Hours (50 to 45) for the M.S. Degree - School of Allied Medical Professions

The School articulated, as part of its rationale, a desire not to hold students to more than the minimum hours required by the University. The proposal also notes that the School now has a Ph.D. program and would like to move interested MS students more efficiently into it. Enough concern remained that the School was contacted for additional information, namely a chart listing side-by-side the specific course changes proposed and additional information regarding the rationale for the proposed changes that speak to the curricular and pedagogical advantages beyond simply revising the number of hours required to the minimum required by the University. Detailed documentation was received from Professor Jane Case-Smith, Chair, Occupational Therapy Division. Halasek indicated that more information can be requested if needed or Case-Smith can be invited to answer questions. There were no questions.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal. It was seconded by Babington. The motion passed unanimously.

- Proposal for a Computer/Technology Endorsement – College of Education and Human Ecology

Halasek gave an overview of the proposal. The Computer/Technology endorsement will require that students complete 24 credit hours offered in the College of Education and Human Ecology. Classes taken to satisfy the endorsement may apply toward an MA degree. Applicants to the endorsement must have a bachelor’s degree, and possess a current Ohio teaching certificate, or a professional teaching license, from Ohio. A computer/technology endorsement cannot be added to a substitute or temporary license. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA for all courses. Students are required to complete and present an electronic portfolio. The portfolio must include evidence of how the candidate is integrating technology in their teaching in ways that are culturally relevant, equitable, and that maximize the academic achievement of students with broad social, cultural, and academic background.

Farr added that there exist two other endorsements - in reading and English as a second language.

Why do teachers complete these endorsement programs? It helps their professional growth. A Technology endorsement has growing demand.
How long does it take to complete the program? It varies because they are taken on a part time basis.

What is the application process to enter this program? The application process is internal. They are graduate level courses and can be taken through Continuing Education.

Subcommittee D moved approval of the proposal - seconded by Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE REVISED CENTER GUIDELINES

Smith distributed the revised center guidelines with his and Halasek’s editorial changes. The Council reviewed the document in detail. Council members suggested several additional changes. A revised center guidelines document with all the changes recommended by the Council will be distributed at the next meeting for action.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

Respectfully Submitted by

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta