COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 BRICKER HALL

May 2, 2007

3:00 – 5:00 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Professors: James J. Beatty, Daniel E. Collins, Lora Gingerich Dobos, Richard P. Gunther, W. Randy Smith (Vice Chair), George J. Valco, Brian L. Winer (Chair)

Student Members: Rose M. Babington and Elaine Yeh (Undergraduate Student Government); and Jane Evans (Council of Graduate Students); Sheila Rajashekara (Inter Professional Council)

Guests: Edward H. Adelson Associate Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences; Jed Dickhaut, Associate Registrar and Cynthia Feidler, Assistant Registrar, Office of the University Registrar; David Roy, Senior Assistant Director, Enrollment Services, Undergraduate Admissions; Professor Harald E. Vaessin, Department of Molecular Genetics, Chair, University Senate Steering Committee; Professor Deborah Larsen, Director and Associate Dean, School of Allied Medical Profession; Professor Sandra Stroot, Senior Associate Dean and Dr. Penny Reighart, Assistant Dean, College of Education and Human Ecology

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2007

Valco moved approval of the Minutes of the March 28, 2007, seconded by Dobos. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR BRIAN L. WINER

Winer gave a summary of the meeting of Faculty Council on April 26, 2007 where the various degree templates discussed by Council to date, were reviewed. Many of the issues focused on ones that Council had already discussed. The need for an academic justification for the reduction, and concerns about “breadth” were raised.
COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR - PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Given that the Council has already held 5 meetings this Quarter and that the scheduled June 6, 2007 meeting falls within examination week, we may want to revisit the schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year – perhaps cancel the May 16 and June 6 meetings and replace them with one in between.

Professor Joseph A. Alutto, Dean, Fisher College of Business, has been named by President Holbrook as the Interim Executive Vice President and Provost effective July 1, 2007.

DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION – PROFESSORS BRIAN L. WINER AND W. RANDY SMITH, SUBCOMMITTEE D

- B.S. Templates from Other Colleges

Winer introduced the B.S. templates submitted by the School of Allied Medical Professions and the College of Education and Human Ecology.

- School of Allied Medical Professions (SAMP)

Professor Deborah Larsen gave a summary of the proposal. SAMP supports the minimum of 181 credit hours to graduate with the Baccalaureate degree. Some programs will require, secondary to programmatic accreditation expectations, an excess of that minimum. However, total credit hours to completion of the degree will decrease by 5 or 10 hours depending on the program. All their programs require at least Mathematics 148 and additional higher mathematics or a statistics course. Since Mathematics 148 is only 4 credit hours, there will be only 9 hours within this skill area. Consistent with the Arts and Sciences’ (ASC) B.S. template, SAMP is proposing 20 hours of Natural Sciences, 10 hours of Social Sciences, 10 hours of Arts and Humanities and 10 additional breadth area reflecting an overall change of 5-10 credits. Most of SAMP’s programs have prerequisite or program requirements that exceed the 20 credits of Natural Sciences. These requirements could now be met through the breadth area. Students could also fulfill breadth areas through completion of additional science courses that now fulfill elective requirements such as Anatomy 199/200 or Bio Chemistry 211 and 212 or additional social science courses such as Economics 200, Sociology 101 that are taken currently taken as electives. It is expected that the proposed changes will result in a credit hour decrease of 5-10 credits for most programs in SAMP. Currently, credits to graduation range from 186 to
196. Thus some programs will meet 181 hours for graduation with proposed changes. Others will remain at 186, 191, or 196.

There are ~780 undergraduate students in the School of Allied Medical Professions.

- **College of Education and Human Ecology (CEHE)**

Professor Sandra Stroot and Dr. Penelope Reighart gave a summary of the proposal. With the recent merger of the College of Education and the College of Human Ecology, faculty members have not had sufficient time to review the full set of proposed changes to the general education curriculum (GEC). At this time, EHE proposes to drop one course from the current GEC from either the choice (Cultures and Ideas) area under Arts and Humanities or from one of the three courses under Social Sciences. This would result in a reduction of 5 credit hours from the total credit hours required for each program. Total credit hours to graduation currently vary from 191 and 200.

The B.S. in Nutrition degree is offered in cooperation with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (FAES). Although they included B.S. in Nutrition in this proposal it will need further review with FAES.

There are ~2,600 undergraduate students in Human Ecology, 1000 in Education, and 1100 on the regional campuses.

In response to questions: there are accreditation needs. If Social Sciences are reduced from 15 to 10, then Arts and Humanities have to remain at 25 and if Arts and Humanities are reduced to 20, then Social Sciences would remain at 15. They need time to discuss various options for change. With the recent merger they have not had that time.

Council members asked that the College try and find 5 more hours so that it can reduce by 10 hours overall.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Collins felt that the SAMP proposal to have students take major pre-requisite courses under the “breadth” area does not follow the spirit of breadth. He was also concerned that the School did not consider a foreign language requirement when it had the opportunity to do so with this review. Smith indicated that all the colleges outside the arts and sciences were asked to try and align with the ASC templates and that SAMP had done so. We had not questioned other colleges about their commitment to foreign language.
There was a concern that this new approach to breadth will create highly differentiated GECs. Gunther noted that the Faculty Council is also concerned about reduction in the breadth area by putting major pre-requisites there.

Winer and Smith noted that given that professional colleges need to include certain skills for their students to be successful, these colleges are doing their best to reduce hours and prepare students for professional skills at the same time.

Clarification was sought on whether this Council can mandate the new University GEC Advisory Committee to monitor breadth courses specifically and watch for aggregate enrollment shifts. Smith said that it could and reminded Council members that it will report to Council every Winter on its findings. This is in the charge letter given to it. Gunther wanted special attention given to the four year time frame so that this activity really is monitored.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**

Winer reminded Council that throughout its deliberations since March 28, 2007, a small set of resolutions was being developed – ones that would go forward to the University Senate along with any recommendations for changes in minimum hours to graduation.

Council then discussed the drafts of four resolutions. Various modifications were made. Motions were then made for each resolution. The core of each resolution is presented below.

- **Resolution #1**

  The new University-Level Advisory Committee on the General Education Curriculum (GEC) to monitor and evaluate the student-selected courses in the Breadth categories; specifically to monitor the breadth of education that students obtain.

  Gunther moved approval of Resolution #1, seconded by Beatty. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution #2**

  CAA has requested that the Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instructions develop a mechanism for using middle to upper-level courses to fulfill GEC requirements.

  Beatty moved approval of Resolution #2, seconded by Babington. The motion passed unanimously.
• **Resolution #3**

CAA has requested that the GEC templates for each college be organized in such a fashion that they are as clear as possible and contain all the information necessary for students to navigate through the choices.

Winer moved approval of Resolution #3, seconded by Beatty. The motion passed unanimously.

• **Resolution #4**

CAA has suspended the implementation of the new GEC templates for colleges that have not yet completed the investigation of an additional 5 credit hour reduction outside the GEC. Implementation of new GEC would not go forward until the issue of the additional 5 credit hours in cuts from the major or electives is “addressed to the satisfaction of CAA.”

Winer moved approval of Resolution #4 seconded by Beatty. The motion passed unanimously.

Winer and Smith summarized activities to date. This Council had now reviewed a formal proposal from the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences to reduce the minimum number of credit hours to graduation for both the B.A. and B.S degrees from 191 to 181 hours. The 10 hour reduction came from 5 hours in the GEC and 5 hours from electives or the major programs.

The Council had also reviewed proposals from 8 other colleges with undergraduate programs that tried to align with the ASC proposal – none was permitted to reduce the GEC by more than 5 hours; all were encouraged to find an additional 5 hour reduction in electives or the major if possible. At this stage, only Engineering and Education/Human Ecology might not have an additional 5 hours identified.

In addition the Council had identified 4 resolutions that needed to be addressed along with implementation of the proposed changes.

Winer informed the Council that the Faculty Council would be voting on the reduction of minimum number of credit hours to graduation (with an understanding that the 10 hour reduction will be achieved with no more than 5 hours from the GEC) at its meeting on May 3, 2007. He and Smith would attend that meeting.

**This Council does not vote on proposals until after a Faculty Council vote, so members of this Council will be asked to vote by e-mail by noon on Friday, May 4 after the Faculty Council vote on May 3.**
In addition, the Senate Steering Committee will review the proposal on May 4, 2007 (Winer and Smith have been asked to attend that meeting) before placing it on the agenda of the University Senate on May 10, 2007.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Lakshmi Dutta