

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
April 26, 2007
3:30pm
SUB Alumni Room

Members Present: Candy Young, Alan Davis, Steve Smith, Wynne Wilbur, Roberta Donahue (for Chris Lantz), Betty McLane-Iles, Jay Self, Royce Kallerud, Janet Romine, John Neitzke, David Garth, Glenn Wehner, Cynthia Cooper, Vaughan Pultz, Terry Olson, Patricia Burton (for Terry Olson), Dereck Daschke, Linda Schulte, Emily Meyer, Tim Gerhart, Adam Davis, Marty Eisenberg, Maria Di Stefano, and secretary Erika Woehlk

Guest: Paul Parker (SS)

Approval of Agenda

The April 26, 2007 Undergraduate Council agenda was approved by general consent.

Approval of Minutes

C. Young proposed a friendly amendment to clarify the membership of the attendance policy committee – the foreign language, science, and fine arts labs should be represented by one person total, not one person each. **The April 5, 2007 Undergraduate Council minutes were approved as amended by general consent.**

Information Items/Reports

Environmental Studies Oversight Committee Membership – Adam Davis:

Jim Turner, Tom Marshall, and Amber Johnson are rotating off the Committee. Monica Barron, Wolfgang Hoeschele, and Janice Clark Young are taking their places.

Report from Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum – Paul Parker:

The Commission's last meeting of the semester will be tomorrow, April 27. At that meeting, the Commission will make a plan for work over the summer and next fall. The Commission held open fora last week about interdisciplinarity, which were well attended. Next semester, they will work on the curriculum. Basically this year the Commission worked on the philosophies of a good liberal arts education and steeped themselves in Truman's history; they will tackle the more concrete issues next year.

Discussion: Question = Does the Commission plan to get on the Strategic Plan and Assessment Workshop agenda this July? Response = We assume we will be involved, but have not really worked on this yet. Question = What progress has the Commission made this year? Response = We have spent a lot of time reading and discussing various perspectives on liberal arts education. We have increased our understanding of our different points of view, and we are still working to develop a committee position on them. **The Undergraduate Council confirmed that the UGC's charge to the Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum continues as originally written even as the university alters the structure of its academic administration. The Commission and UGC will seek to keep the campus**

informed of the Commission's activities and to engage the campus in opportunities to discuss issues vital to the commission's work.

Report from UGC Chair – Candy Young:

The Social Scientific Mode of Inquiry was up for review this year. The Social Science Dean has been working with Mode faculty, who will make their report in August or September 2007. This review will be an item of New Business for the Fall. We are still drafting the advising brochure. C. Young will work on it over the summer and bring a prototype to the UGC in the Fall. The membership for the Attendance Policy Review Committee was clarified under the "Approval of the Minutes" portion of this meeting. The Committee will begin work in the Fall. We need two faculty volunteers from the UGC to review the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grants with Julie Lochbaum. No one volunteered, so C. Young will be placing personal phone calls.

Old Business

Repeat Policy Resolution from Student Senate:

C. Cooper moved to approve the Repeat Policy Resolution. B. McLane-Iles seconded. Discussion:

Some objections to the Resolution are that it will lower standards, water down the curriculum, and lose the integrity of the students' degrees. There are also concerns about how the additional pressures for seats might negatively affect course availability in majors that already have difficulty providing sufficient seats for students. The students could consider alternate avenues to helping students in trouble, such as add/drop appeals for extraordinary circumstances, credit/no credit (although this option can only be employed for elective courses), or creating a freshman bankruptcy policy. Medical withdrawal may also be appropriate for some students. Associate Vice President Maria Di Stefano clarified that requests for medical withdrawals may be for all or a portion of a student's course load. The registrar is working to create a better definition of what a full-time student really is: a definition that might freeze a student's credit hour load at a point in time like the fourth week. If this is changed, it will be yet another avenue for a student to drop one course rather than repeat it. The twelve-credit hour limit might be difficult to impose. For example, what would happen if a student's three repeated classes add up to 13 or 14 hours? Student Senate is willing to change the Resolution to read "three courses" instead of 12 credit hours. Once again, the students were reminded that graduate schools and some employers recalculate students' GPAs. A statement to this effect, though, is in the Resolution. There is concern regarding the language in line #13 ("or a grade lower than that required to fulfill graduation requirements").

One argument for passing the Resolution is that students would only use repeating a course as a last resort because the repeat does show up on the transcript. Furthermore, everybody makes mistakes and proponents argue we need to find ways to allow students to redeem themselves. The First-Year Experience Task Force researched a few examples of what it would take for a student in poor academic standing to get back into good standing. In their examination of students who were on academic probation in Fall 2004, on average, they needed 16 credit hours of a 2.5 GPA to get back into good standing. The same group of students on probation needed 76 credit hours of 2.25 GPA to achieve good standing. The six-year graduation rate for Fall 2000 students who earned less than a 2.0 GPA their first semester was 28%. Also, first-time freshmen do not pick their first semester schedule.

R. Kallerud moved to table the Repeat Policy Resolution until the August 30, 2007 Undergraduate Council meeting. V. Pultz seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 16 aye, 0 no, and 1 abstention.

[Because the second UGC meeting was scheduled to begin at 4:30, **V. Pultz moved to extend the meeting time by ten minutes. P. Burton seconded. The motion passed by general consent.**]

New Business

Changes to the Environmental Studies Minor:

HLTH 362 and POL 275 were added to the course options under Area 2 of the Minor. BIZ 306 was added as an option under Area 4. All the Minor's associated Deans signed off on the changes. **Ad. Davis moved to approve the changes to the Environmental Studies Minor. G. Wehner seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 15 aye, 0 no, and 1 abstention.**

Announcements

Next Meeting:

The 2007-2008 Undergraduate Council will meet at approximately 4:45 following this meeting. The new Council will elect next year's officers.

Thanks:

Chair C. Young thanked those UGC members who are rotating off the Council. She also thanked secretary E. Woehlk, who will not be returning in the Fall. The Council applauded all.

Adjournment

C. Young adjourned the April 26, 2007 Undergraduate Council meeting at 4:39pm.

Ew