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Academic Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes, April 4, 1995

Moorhead State University

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APAC Minutes
April 4, 1995

Members present: Reed, chair; Beach, Bense, Dobitz, Moore, Roy, Schmider, Shaker, Swenson, Tweet, Wasson, Zarrett.

1. Older-Than-Average Pilot Update

Jan Flagel updated the committee on the Older-Than-Average Pilot Project which APAC approved extending into spring quarter at the 12/20/94 meeting. The project is set up to allow 50 students who do not meet the regular admission requirements to be admitted into MSU. The plan entailed testing those students on their reading, writing and math skills and advising them in appropriate starting classes.

Flagel reported that 13 students enrolled in the project winter quarter. Of those 13 students, 11 took classes winter quarter and the remaining two waited until spring quarter to take classes. Students choose to take classes in the New Center and in other academic departments, receiving grades ranging from A to D. Survey results show that those students felt testing and instruction from the Faculty Program Guide was valuable. Faculty who served as Program Guides felt the project was time consuming for them although useful to the students. Flagel feels that the time factor for faculty and students needs to be reduced and that testing times for students should be minimized.

The enrollment cap is set at 50 students and since enrollments are low for this project, Flagel and Jean Lange will contact six community businesses to recruit students. Flagel requested that the project be allowed to continue until a total of 50 students have been accepted into the program. The committee concurred with that request.

2. New Committee Member:

Larry Reed introduced Liana Tweet, the new student appointed to the committee.

3. Semester Conversion: Health and Physical Education

New Course:

HLTH 124: First Aid for Elementary Education (1 semester cr.)
The Teacher Preparation Committee has approved this course.
Moore moved. Wasson seconded to approve.
Motion carried unanimously.

4. Music Department

New Course:

MUS 217: Pop/Rock Music for Non-Majors (2 semester cr.)

Beach moved. Zarrett seconded to approve.
The Liberal Studies Committee approved this course for Division D designation.

Roy moved to modify the catalog description to state that MUS 214 and MUS 217 cannot both be counted for graduation toward the music major. Zarrett seconded.
Motion to amend carried with one opposed.

Motion to approve the course as amended carried unanimously.

5. English Department

New Courses:

- ENGL 409/509: Studies in American Literature (3 semester cr.)
- ENGL 499/599: Topics/Authors (1-2 semester cr.)
- ENGL 677: M.F.A. Tutorial (1-3 semester cr.)

Action was delayed until the Graduate Council acts on these courses.

6. Freshmen Year Experience - (Hearing Only)

New Course:

- FYE 101: First Year Experience (1 semester cr.)

Ted Gracyk, Hazel Retzlaff and VP Mel Schmitz were present to field questions from the committee. Gracyk and Retzlaff served on the Freshmen Year Experience Task Force which developed this course. VP Schmitz chaired the FYE Task Force and also chairs the Enrollment Management Committee. The FYE Task Force reviewed areas students may have difficulty with during their transition into college life. Faculty experts/specialists were asked to develop a two-hour presentation which would introduce students to ideas/solutions as to cope with areas of difficulty.

Retzlaff stated this program originated from the University of South Carolina by John N. Gardner. She stated that Mankato and St. Cloud State University offer this course on their campuses. Schmitz stated that St. Cloud State University has a 78% retention rate of their freshmen students. Retzlaff explained the topics proposed in the 15 week program. The proposed course would not be a requirement for freshmen but they will be encouraged to register for the course through correspondence sent to them and their parents prior to registration. Registration would be limited to 250 students; with break-out groups of 25 students. The enrollment is capped at 250 students to allow for an evaluation of the course before enlarging the class size. Schmitz stated that faculty who do not have full class-loads would be encouraged to become involved in this course. Faculty involved will attend a training workshop in May. The proposed textbook for this course entitled "Your College Experience," was reviewed by committee members.

Committee concerns focused on generation of student credit hours, budgetary needs, supervision of faculty involved in the course and dean/department ownership of the course. Wade Swenson expressed his support of the course.

VP Schmitz stated that he initiated the course for implementation at MSU to improve student retention. He expressed his willingness to have the course supervised under a different division although feels that the topic areas involved in the course can not be departmentalized.

APAC will act on this course at the next meeting scheduled on 4/18/95.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

G. Anderson