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Academic Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes, April 7, 1998

Moorhead State University

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APAC Minutes
April 7, 1998

Members present: Midgarden chair; Ahles, Brown, Conteh, Dobitz, Fasick, Grineski, Hart, Hauge-Stoffel, Jeppson, Klenk, Krause, Pemble, Reed, Sanderson, Schmidt, Smedman.

1. Chemistry Department

Hart moved. Pemble seconded to approve the change in course levels:

CHEM 220: Inorganic Chemistry Part I (3 cr.), changed to CHEM 300
CHEM 250: Survey of Organic Chemistry: Part I (3 cr.), changed to CHEM 350
CHEM 255: Organic Chemistry Laboratory 1 (1 cr.), changed to CHEM 355
CHEM 260: Survey of Organic Chemistry Part II (3 cr.), changed to CHEM 360
CHEM 265: Organic Chemistry Laboratory II (1 cr.), changed to CHEM 365
CHEM 280: Analytical Chemistry Part I (3 cr.), changed to CHEM 380
CHEM 380: Analytical Chemistry Part II (4 cr.), changed to CHEM 480

Abbas Pezeshk was present to field questions. Fasick asked what constitutes the need for the change in course levels and how do they meet the criteria established by APAC. Pezeshk stated there would be no change in how the course is taught and he stated the freshmen and sophomore level courses are less work than junior and senior level courses and mainly data acquisition. There is more analysis of data and the interruption of data is more detailed in junior and senior level courses. Krause asked how many 200-level Chemistry courses will remain if this is changed. Pezeshk stated only CHEM 297 would remain. He wants to change General Chemistry 150 (CHEM 150) to a 200-level course next year. The committee discussed how the Community Colleges offer Chemistry courses and if MSU would have to accept those transfer credits. Midgarden stated that departments have to review and approve transfer credits. Pemble stated that transfer students may have to take 300-level courses to generate enough 300-level credits to meet the requirement. Smedman asked if there were any other reasons students should take these courses or is this just to satisfy the 300-level credit requirement? Smedman asked how the proposed course level changes meet APAC criteria. Pemble asked for clearer rationale for these changes.

Krause moved to table these courses until clearer rationale was obtained from the Chemistry Department. Fasick seconded.

Motion to table passed with 10 approvals and 2 opposed.

Pezeshk will submit rationale for the next APAC meeting and stated he will try to submit the 100-level changes as well.

2. B.M. in Music Performance/Emphasis in Jazz and Studio Music (Hearing)

Glen Ginn and Ruth Dahlke were present to field questions. Ginn stated that three new courses were approved last year and will be included as part of this program. This will be a successful tool for musicians to specialize their skills. He informally surveyed approximately 60 students at Fargo South High School and 75% stated they might study music after high school. Northern Texas State and O'Claire have similar programs. Dahlke stated this is the first emphasis in Music. Conteh asked if additional resources and staff would be needed. Ginn stated that all courses are offered now; the only difference is how they are packaged. (This emphasis would be offered under the already existing B.M. Degree in Music Performance.) No new staff will be required to teach this emphasis. The committee will act on this emphasis at the 4/21/98 APAC meeting.

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3. Athletic Training Major (Hearing)

Cynthia Booth presented the proposed major to the committee members present and fielded questions. She stated that MSU's present Athletic Training Minor began in 1989 and approximately 12-15 students are in that program annually. All students in that Minor receive national certification and usually work in the allied health profession. Booth stated that since 1990, approximately 2,000 students have inquired about Athletic Training information. (A computer printout with those names was made available for review.) The Athletic Training Minor currently services MSU athletes and supports our community at Merticare and Sports Medicine.

She stated this major would prepare students for the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification Examination and for entry-level athletic training positions. If approved, MSU would seek national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This proposal would fulfill the requirements specified by CAAHEP.

Schmidt asked what type of employment and salary is possible for students that graduate with this major and is graduate school an option. Booth stated that there are different levels of employment at the high school level, at the University/collegiate level, the clinical/industrial/corporate level, and at the professional level. 3M and Ford Motor Company are employing trainers for the prevention of work injuries. Salaries depend on where the student finds employment geographically. Most students will need to go outside the Fargo-Moorhead area. Positions are available within Minnesota and throughout the U.S.

Conteh asked where else this major is offered and can students transfer into our program. Booth stated that there are only two nationally accredited athletic training programs in Minnesota; Mankato State University and Gustavus Adolphus College. St. Cloud State University offers an athletic training minor (non-teaching) and Winona State University offers a major in exercise science with an athletic training option. All other Minnesota institutions are not nationally accredited and are considered to be internship programs as defined by the National Athletic Trainers Association. The University of North Dakota has an athletic training major housed in the School of Family Practice but only UND students are allowed to enroll in the athletic training courses. NDSU accepts 10-12 students per year in its athletic training major and only NDSU students are allowed to enroll in the athletic training courses. MSU students are not allowed to take their courses through Tri-College. Booth stated that the year 2000 will be the last year in which students will be accepted into internship programs nationwide and by the year 2004, all NATA internship programs will be eliminated and athletic training education programs must be nationally accredited. The NATA Board of Directors passed this mandate on December 6, 1996.

Booth stated that most students in the Athletic Training Program do not transfer into the MSU program. Concordia students could take our courses but must meet all prerequisites. Students are accepted into the program the spring semester of their freshman year and their coursework begins when they reach sophomore status.

Krause asked if an increase in staffing is needed with this proposed major. Booth stated 1.25 FTE would be requested. A majority of the 69-70 semester credit hours required for the major can be taught by existing faculty, however, the proposed major would require the current .75 FTE position to increase to an 1.00 FTE, and an additional 1.00 FTE would be needed to teach new course work and supervise the student athletic trainers. There are 18 athletic teams serviced.

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These services are supplied at no cost to the University: MeritCare Sports Medicine Clinic provides a nationally certified athletic trainer to assist in the athletic training services provided to the athletes and assists in the supervision of the student athletic trainers; Moorhead High School has two nationally certified athletic trainers who would assist in the supervision of the MSU student athletic trainers during the high school clinical rotation; the student athletic trainers will be supervised by the team physicians during their clinical rotation at MeritCare Sports Medicine; MeritCare Sports Medicine Clinic provides athletic medical coverage by an orthopedic surgeon and a family practice physician on-site at MSU who provides athletic injury/illness evaluations in which the student athletic trainers observe weekly. Students also observe surgeries at MeritCare Hospital. The UND Family Practice Clinic, located in Fargo, has a required sports medicine rotation of the third year resident physicians, which is performed on-site in the MSU athletic training room and supervised by certified athletic trainers.

The only additional equipment needed would be a personal computer for the new faculty person. They will use facilities and equipment currently available to them. The athletic training program has its own budget and supplies/equipment, which is used for athletics.

Midgarden stated that if this is not approved, by year 2004 there will be no athletic training program at MSU and we would lose all students interested in this program. Smedman asked if the minor would remain if this major were approved. Booth answered that the minor would disappear. Conteh asked if MSU would seek accreditation if this major were approved. Booth stated it would seek accreditation if supported by the University. Booth stated that this major meets the upper-level course requirements mandated by MnSCU and students must have a 2.75 GPA to be accepted into this program. Smedman stated that is the same GPA requirement for Elementary Education majors. Midgarden asked if the GPA requirement is due to accreditation guidelines. Booth answered it is not. Sanderson asked what sort of questions are asked of students applying to be in this program. Booth reported that they are mainly observation questions, for example, what they plan to accomplish with this major, etc., and to see how the student interrelates with coaches, faculty and students.

Brown stated this is an excellent proposal. Conteh and the rest of the committee members present commended Booth on a thorough job of preparing the proposal and presenting it to the committee. The proposed major will be acted on at the 4/21/98 APAC meeting.

4. Proposal to change MSU's Grading System to include +/-'s.

Ahles moved. Conteh seconded to approve this proposal.

Joel Charon, Donna Rosh, Mark Chekola were present to field questions at the meeting. This idea was discussed last year at APAC. A group of faculty (Joel Charon, Mark Chekola, Ted Gracyk, Don Mattson, Steve Poitras, Donna Rosh, Don Samelson, George Sanderson and Marlane Sanderson) conducted a questionnaire and sent out approximately 320-350 questionnaires to everyone who is a member of the faculty as determined by the list generated by the Computer Center. The results were: 153 (Yes), 32 (No) and 12 (Do not care). The survey results were submitted to committee members.

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They proposed: Instead of A, B, C, D, F, 4.0, 3.0, 2.0, 1.0, 0, we institute the following choices:

Model 1			Model 2	
A+	4.00		No A+	---
A	4.00		A	4.0
A-	3.67		A-	3.67
B+	3.33		B+	3.33
B	3.00		B	3.00
B-	2.67		B-	2.67
C+	2.33		C+	2.33
C	2.00		C	2.00
C-	1.67		C-	1.67
D+	1.33		D+	1.33
D	1.00		D	1.00
D-	0.67		D-	0.67
F	0		F	0

Les Bakke stated the proposal could be integrated into new student record development and grading scheme. Smedman suggested an even point scale instead of the .33 & .67 scale. She felt an even point scale would be easier for record-keeping purposes. Conteh asked, if approved, when this proposal would be implemented. Midgarden answered that it could begin Fall 1998/99. Conteh asked if it would apply only to incoming freshmen. Midgarden stated it would be too difficult for faculty to keep track of each student's level status for grading if implemented only for new freshmen. Charon stated that it would be unfair to grade only incoming students; cannot grade differentiate for other students in the same class. Chekola stated this proposal would bring more accuracy and more fairness to students. Charon stated that students understand what +/- mean. Bakke stated that the new student record system have the capabilities for +/- and matches .67 and .33. Hauge-Stoffel said she is concerned of points between an A and an A-. Jeppson stated high school students are familiar with the +/- grading system. Chekola views this grading system as a valuable incentive for students.

The committee agreed that approval of this policy does not force faculty to use +/- grading, but only makes it available if they choose to implement it into their own grading system. Brown added that there might be a lot of pressure to use this policy if it affects students' GPA. Conteh agreed. Brown stated there was a lawsuit for someone who received an A- because of a change in the grading system.

Smedman suggested no +/- for A's and no D-. Rosh said these grades would allow faculty to differentiate from A+ and A- students. Chekola felt he would probably give the student a B+ if student did not earn an A if he did not have the choice to give an A-.

Brown suggested giving the proposal a trial period of two semesters. Tandberg stated that transcripts began carrying honors credit (HA) a few years ago. A GPA calculator on the Web will be available soon from Les Bakke. The committee decided that A+ would be a good incentive to students and will be included on transcripts. Midgarden stated this would be implemented Fall 1998/99 if approved.

Motion to approve Model 1 with A+ carried with one opposed.

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5. Other:

Charon asked why APAC was not discussing the PSEO course issue. He asked how APAC can allow this University to accept high school math, English as University credit.

Midgarden stated that Rothmann will teach the math courses at Moorhead High School and Schwartz will teach Math 129 at MSU. The Freshmen English Committee is discussing the English courses being taught at the high school. Pemble stated it is not APAC's job to decide this. It will be the decision of the departments involved and Academic Affairs. APAC approves courses, not who teaches them. Charon is concerned that MSU will end up with no English or math department. Sanderson stated APAC does not manage departments. Klenk stated that she has met with the FE English committee and their role is clear to them. There are many rumors misleading faculty. Midgarden stated that the FE English Committee has to approve the faculty who teach the courses.

Rosh asked if graduate students would be teaching freshmen English. Klenk answered there is currently a proposal initiated by the English department through the MFA Program to teach English 101.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Gloria Riopelle