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Academic Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes, April 27, 1999

Moorhead State University

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APAC 4/27/99 Minutes

Members present: Reed, chair; Conteh, Dalhouse, Dunkirk, Grineski, Jeppson, Klenk, Klindworth, Lane, Mowry, Ruth, Sanderson, Schmidt, Scholl, Shimabukuro, Smedman.

The items deferred from the 4/20/99 APAC meeting were acted on first.

1. Masters of Science in Reading Program

Instead of changing EECE 612: Literacy in Society (2 cr.) to variable credits of 2-3 credits, the Masters in Reading Program faculty decided to create a new course and distributed the course outline to APAC members for review. This new one credit course is: EECE 612R Literacy in Society: Readings and Research. This course is designed to be taken concurrently with EECE 612.

Klindworth moved. Sanderson seconded to approve the new course: EECE 612R Literacy in Society: Readings and Research (1 cr.)
Motion carried unanimously.

M.S. Degree in Reading - Plans A and B
Lane moved to approve Plans A & B as modified with the new EECE 612R course. Ruth seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

2. English Department

Minor Change

The committee had no objection to this change:
Change course level of English 232: Film and the Novel (3 cr.) to, 332

3. Academic Policies

a. Probation Policy (This item was deferred at the 4/13/99 APAC meeting.)

The Suspension and Financial Aid Committee recommend the Academic Probation Policy be changed as follows:

The proposal is to place students on academic probation when they have 12 or more attempted credits with a GPA less than 1.6. (Currently, students are placed on academic probation when they have 16 or more attempted credits and a GPA less than 1.6).

Sharon Ferris stated that changing this policy will help the students that fall into this category and are placed on academic probation to be involved in a study skills program.

Lane moved. Shimabukuro seconded to approve the policy change.
Motion carried unanimously.

b. Criteria for Honors:

The Honors Convocation Subcommittee of the University Events Committee recommends the following changes in criteria for the Honors Convocation with baccalaureate degree honors:

- A. Honorable Mention - GPA between 3.4 and 3.59 - Cum Laude
- B. Honors - GPA between 3.6 and 3.79 - Magna Cum Laude
- C. Special Honors - GPA 3.8 and 4.0 - Summa Cum Laude

Eligible students must have completed one of the following:

1. At least 16 credits during the Fall semester of the current year
2. A cumulative total of at least 60 credits with at least 30 graded credits at MSU. Such Students must be enrolled Fall semester of the current year.

Sanderson suggested to Sharon Ferris prior to the meeting the following amendment to the recommendation to read:

To be eligible, a student...

Must have completed at least 15 graded credits at MSU during the Fall semester of the current year.

OR

Must have a) completed at least 60 post-secondary semester credits, including at least 30 graded semester credits at MSU, **AND** b) completed at least 12 graded semester credits at MSU in the Fall semester of the current year.

Sharon Ferris agreed to that amendment and distributed the new language to APAC members.

Sanderson moved to adopt the policy as amended. Klindworth seconded.

Sanderson stated that he would be in favor of reducing the credits to 12 because some students take 12 credits plus work 30 hours a week and commute 50 miles to school. Ferris stated that 12 credits would be too few credits for honors criteria as there should be a level of difficulty in obtaining honors status. The committee discussed what the average credit load is for students. Tandberg stated that the average load is 13.4 credits per student. Ruth stated that some students put work before school so felt the achievement level needed to be higher than 12 credits.

Conteh asked why the policy needed changing and is MSU aligned with other MnSCU institutions regarding this policy. Ferris stated this change parallels criteria for the Honors Convocation with baccalaureate degree honors. She has not looked at criteria used at other MnSCU institutions. Conteh suggested this proposal be approved this year and reviewed again next year with departmental input. Sanderson stated that this policy is not a departmental issue.

Motion to approve the policy as amended carried unanimously.

3. Mass Communications

Major changes:

Schmidt moved. Lane seconded the following:

Credit change of MC 345: TV News Producing from 3 to 2-3 credits.

Discussion included if mass communications should create a separate course. C.T. Hanson stated that the 2 credit course will be taken for 30 hours and the 3 credit for 45 hours. Mass Communications balances faculty load with a 1 credit course when the 2 credit MC 345 is taught. Students register for the course as it is offered in the schedule, either as a 2 credit or as a 3 credit course.

Motion carried unanimously.

Smedman moved. Conteh seconded to approve:

- a. Modifications in the Integrated Advertising & Public Relations Emphasis
Motion carried unanimously.

Sanderson moved. Klindworth seconded to approve:

- b. Modification in the Broadcast Journalism Emphasis
Motion carried unanimously.

4. Chemistry Department

- a. Conteh moved. Ruth seconded to approve the Renumbering of Courses and Course Level Changes:

CHEM 430: Topics in Bio Chemistry to: CHEM 439

CHEM 470: Topics in Inorganic Chemistry to: CHEM 449

CHEM 450: Topics in Physical Chemistry to: CHEM 459

CHEM 460: Topics in Organic Chemistry to: CHEM 479

CHEM 480: Topics in Analytical Chemistry to: CHEM 429 (originally proposed to be 489, but Abbas Pezeshk requested the number change at the meeting.)

CHEM 310: Physical Chemistry to: CHEM 450

CHEM 315: Physical Chemistry Lab to: CHEM 455

CHEM 320: Physical Chemistry to: CHEM 460

CHEM 325: Physical Chemistry Lab to: CHEM 465

Pezeshk stated that these 300-level courses have 400-level course content. These courses are mainly taken by Chemistry majors.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Smedman moved. Conteh seconded to approve of these renumber and title changes:

CHEM 106: Chemistry for Health Professions I (4 cr.) to: CHEM 110: Fundamentals of General Chemistry.

CHEM 107: Chemistry for Health Professions II (4 cr.) to: CHEM 180: Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry

CHEM 108: Health Professions Laboratory (1 cr.) to: CHEM 185: Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry Lab.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Conteh moved. Shimabukuro seconded to approve the modification of the credit options for Undergraduate Research. CHEM 497: Undergraduate Research will now be 1-3 cr.

Pezeshk stated this will take affect next fall and should have no adverse impact on students in the program.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Sanderson moved. Schmidt seconded to approve dropping the following courses from the major. These four Chemistry courses will be dropped from the Bulletin as well. (PHYS 350 is not to be dropped from the Bulletin):

CHEM 297: Research (1 cr.)
CHEM 397: Research (1 cr.)
CHEM 110: Basic Introductory Chemistry (3 cr.)
CHEM 180: Basic Organic and Biological Chemistry (3 cr.)
PHYS 350: Computational Methods for Physical Science (3 cr.)

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Changing B.A. Degree in Chemistry to B.S. Degree in Chemistry
Pezeshk explained that during semester conversion, the B.S. and B.A. were combined into one B.A. degree. The department wishes to take the existing B.A. Degree in Chemistry and change it to a B.S. Degree in Chemistry. Conteh asked if the Chemistry department has had an external evaluation since semester conversion. Pezeshk answered that an external evaluation is scheduled for next year.

Conteh moved. Shimabukuro seconded to approve of the name change.

Shimabukuro asked if this is an ACS approved program. Pezeshk answered it was. Sanderson questioned if this would need MnSCU's approval. Pezeshk will check with VP Midgarden regarding the proper steps to report this change to MnSCU. [Note: The department must file the paperwork for a Programmatic Redesign, and it does not need to go to the Board of Trustees.] Conteh asked what is the student demand. Pezeshk answered there are 8-9 students in the B.A. Degree and there are 3-4 students for the B.S. Degree.

Motion carried with one opposed.

e. Reinstate the B.A. Degree in Chemistry (Chem-Med Option)
Scholl moved. Mowry seconded to approve reinstating the B.A. Degree in Chemistry (Chem-Med Option).

Pezeshk stated that this is a reinstatement of the B.A. degree suspended four years ago. Shimabukuro stated that there are 20 credits difference between the previous degree and current proposal. Pezeshk stated that Calculus was not required in the old proposal. Conteh asked if chemistry had consulted with the mathematics department regarding their course number changes. Pezeshk will get the correct course numbers from math; he did use the recently approved biology course numbers.

Motion carried with two opposed.

5. Biology Department

a. Dropped Courses

Lane moved. Klindworth seconded to approve dropping the following courses from the Bulletin:

BIOL 217: Human Anatomy and Physiology
BIOL 302: Histology
BIOL 309: Principles of Hematology
BIOL 317: Ichthyology
BIOL 318: Entomology
BIOL 410: Parasitology
BIOL 443: Histological Techniques
BIOL 445: Limnology

Shimabukuro stated that the biology department is understaffed, thus not able to offer these courses. If new faculty are hired, they could create new courses. Keeping these courses in the Bulletin, and knowing that we are not able to offer them, misleads students. Sanderson stated that NCA does not want courses that are not taught listed in the Bulletin. Conteh suggested approving these changes with the provision these courses be reinstated if resources change. Shimabukuro stated it is better to create new courses as the discipline is rapidly changing. Mowry asked if not having these courses will make a difference in accreditation. Shimakuro answered that they are teaching the required courses and may realign the program next year.

Motion to drop these courses from the Bulletin carried unanimously.

b. Changes to the Life Science Teaching Major

Dunkirk moved. Ruth seconded to approve of these changes to the Life Science Teaching major:

Add: GEOL 116: Historical Geology (2 cr.) to the Related Field Requirements.

GEOL 260: Planetary Science (3 cr.) to the Related Field Requirements.

Drop: Additional certification requirement for AST 100 or GEOG 241 and
Three credits of related field electives.

Shimabukuro stated that every science teacher will be middle school licensed. Russ Colsen welcomes adding the geology courses to the related field requirements. There are on average 4-6 students who graduate with this major. Dunkirk stated that meetings were held with Biology, Geology and Chemistry faculty to discuss these changes.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Counseling and Student Affairs Graduate Program

Sanderson moved. Lane seconded to approve the following changes:

Credit changes of CNSA 600: Introduction to Counseling Research from 3 to 1-3 credits.

Credit changes of CNSA 610: Foundations of Counseling from 3 to 1-3 credits.

William Packwood stated that under quarters, these were also two separate 3 credit courses. After much discussion of whether to offer variable credits, the committee decided against variable credit and suggested offering CNSA 600 for 1 credit and CNSA 610 for 2 credits.

Motion as modified carried unanimously.

Ruth moved. Smedman seconded to approve the following:

Change requirements for degree from 6 credits of CNSA 691: Practicum to:
2 credits of CNSA 691: Practicum AND 4 credits of CNSA 692: Internship.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Honor Cords at Commencement

This item was added to the agenda at the meeting and the Student Senate recommendation was distributed to APAC members to review. Reed stated that President Barden requested this recommendation be discussed at APAC and acted on if possible. The recommendation reads:

(Recommendation attached)

Kristin Radke, Student Senate Representative, stated that she is a member of the Tri Beta Honor Society of which Richard Pemble is the faculty advisor. Their society learned last week that honor cords from honor societies are not allowed to be worn at Commencement other than the Academic Honors of Summa Cum Laude graduates (red and white cords). Radke spoke with President Barden last week regarding this issue who told her this was a policy for APAC's recommendation. Radke requested the Student Senate's recommendation prior to bring it to APAC. Radke felt that President Barden was in favor of this recommendation although not willing to implement at this year's commencement due to the fact that other honor societies were not aware of the policy change. Tri Beta - Biology Honor Society (red and green cords) and, Psi Chi - Psychology Honor Society (blue and gold cords) had already ordered honor cords for commencement. Radke suggested that other honor societies be notified immediately and then could possibly place an order for cords in time for commencement.

Scholl stated that a list of the University's honor societies would have been helpful in order for APAC to see how many this recommendation affects. Lane suggested the list of honor societies be included in the commencement program. Lane asked if wearing of cords by honor societies was a common practice at other universities. Reed answered that it was not common practice.

Conteh moved to approve the recommendation from the Student Senate and ask the President's support of this recommendation and, if possible, bring this recommendation to the attention of other honor societies so they are allowed to participate. Ruth seconded the motion.

Mowry asked the rationale for not allowing honor societies to wear cords. There was not an answer given. Lane asked if the Honors Convocation Committee had the opportunity to review this recommendation. Reed stated they had not because the recommendation was quickly prepared. Pemble stated that Tri Beta has been a national honor society since 1922. He stated there is not a written policy regarding honor cords. He realizes that President Barden does not want commencement to become a circus. Tri Beta's cords are red and green and recognize the achievement of the students and add color and pageantry to the ceremonies. This differs from wearing armbands as in protest or allowing anyone wear whatever they wish. Societies that are recognized by the institution should be encouraged to participate in wearing of their honor cords.

Smedman asked what is the current practice at commencement. Tandberg answered that only Summa Cum Laude (red and white cords) are allowed at commencement. Smedman stated this recommendation may be too rushed for this commencement.

Conteh stated that the students present at the meeting should not leave the university in a negative feeling, as they are our future supporters. He is a member of an honor society and wears the society's pin. Conteh said that some faculty wear large medallions at commencement and are not discouraged in doing so.

Shimabukuro suggested that the Student Senate notify MSU honor societies so they have equal opportunity to participate if this recommendation is approved.

Harleigh Brown, Student Senate President, stated that he belongs to the Political Science honor society and would like to see Tri Beta and Psi Chi be allowed to wear their cords at this year's commencement even though other honor societies may not have time to order cords. He said that he will be meeting with President Barden tomorrow (4/28/99) to discuss this issue. He also mentioned that the Advocate's last edition could publish an article regarding this recommendation.

Smedman asked if other honor societies had been informed of this recommendation and had an opportunity to discuss and/or give their input. Radke answered they were not informed as there was no time to contact them.

Klindworth asked if there is a certain criteria that must be achieved in order to belong to an honor society. Radke answered that Tri Beta requires a specific number of credits and GPA in order to be an official member. Smedman reiterated that honor societies would need to be identified in the commencement program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Gloria Riopelle