Minutes
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Volume 49, No. 4
October 2, 2012


B. Nowlan, presiding as chair in Jean Pratt’s absence, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Motion was made and seconded to remove the Accounting and Finance Certificate from the catalog. Motion carried unanimously.

2. The Committee continued its discussion of the liberal education reform integrative learning requirement coupled with breadth requirements. B. Nowlan provided a summary of developments leading to the current discussion, and presented three possible courses of action:

   • Reaffirm the APC decision from May 8, 2012, to establish a Liberal Education Breadth Requirement comprising 18 credits of intentionally designed, integrative learning Arts and Sciences experiences with 6 credits in each of the following three major categories: Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences.

   • Propose a compromise alternative in light of additional information presented about feasibility of earlier decision.

   • Vote to suspend voting on the requirement until APC receives the revised liberal education outcomes rubric currently being developed by department chairs

A comment was made suggesting broader interpretation of integrated learning to include experiences beyond the bundle model.

A question was raised regarding the rationale for 18 credits of integrated learning. E. Weiher reported that ULEC decided on 18 credits as a compromise between a very minimalistic approach to integrated learning and one that would fully integrate all liberal education credits.

Concerns were raised over the ability of transfer students and non-traditional students to meet the 18 credit integrated learning requirement.

Concern was voiced over accountability and quality control if integrated learning were more broadly defined to include co-curricular and external experiences, and about the demands placed on students and faculty for requirements that do not carry credits. Mention was made (by B. Nowlan) that APC might well want eventually to devise a separate motion for Senate approval that recommends the UWEC
Administration give faculty equitable credit for conducting non-traditional kinds of high-impact, liberal education experiences with students as part of their workloads—in addition to the credit faculty receive for teaching traditional kinds of classes.

A motion was made (J. Ohm) and seconded (L. Bica) to reaffirm the integrated learning requirement as passed in May. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made (P. Martin) and seconded (S. Duckworth-Lawton) to suspend voting on the integrated learning with breadth requirement agenda item until the new learning outcomes rubric proposal currently being developed by departmental chairs is brought forward. The motion carried (5 in favor, 3 opposed).

The question was raised about whether it would be possible to have different requirements for transfer students. D. Gough responded that there is precedence on other campuses to do so. We would have the ability, but would have to weigh exceptions against the idea of what a UW-Eau Claire degree should mean. More complicated, she suggested, would be the question of freshmen who come in with a number of credits already.

B. Nowlan asked APC members if we needed, next, to discuss or approve any additional breadth requirements, beyond what we approved last May (in terms of 18 credits of intentionally integrated Arts and Sciences experiences, 6 credits in the Arts and Humanities, 6 credits in the Social Sciences, and 6 credits in the Natural Sciences—and a laboratory science requirement), and no one indicated that we should do so, at the present time. No one expressed any objection in proceeding next to discuss race, class, and/or gender equity.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Markgraf, secretary for the meeting