Minutes

University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Volume 49, No. 5 October 9, 2012


1. Approval of the September 25, 2012 meeting minutes.
2. Approval of the October 2, 2012 meeting minutes.
3. Agenda item 2) (a) split into two items: creation of a core and research emphases.
4. Discussion of the Chemistry proposal to create three new certified emphases (General, Materials Science, and Biochemistry). Chair of Chemistry introduced topic. There will be no resource implications for this proposal. Motion was made and seconded to create three new emphases within the Chemistry A.C.S. Comprehensive Major umbrella. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Introduction and discussion of the Chemistry Research emphasis proposal. Faculty engaged in research with undergraduates will be able to count this as part of teaching load with the understanding that retention issues are addressed in earlier courses in Chemistry, as per an agreement with the Provost's office. Beyond this no new resources are needed. This emphasis is not ACS certified, however, this does not affect student success in admission to graduate school. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies has two proposals, one to create a new course prefix (Env for environmental studies), and the second regarding placement in the General Education program. WICES is in the process of creating two minors, and would like to develop interdisciplinary, collaborative courses for the minors. There was a discussion of human resource requirements as the programs develop minors. WICES is in the process of strategic planning and should have adequate staffing for the future. Dr. Boulter discussed the evolution of the Environmental Science minor and noted that it is being broadened in focus. No negative impact on existing programs is anticipated. Motion was made and seconded to create a new prefix, Env, to create a new prefix for courses under WICES. Motion passed unanimously.
7. The College Curriculum Committee and the College Faculty have approved the placement of Env courses in the General Education Program. APC will need to approve these courses as counting for General Education. Motion made and seconded to place the Env prefix in the General Education program under the following subcategories: IC, IIF, IIG, IVE and in GE V. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Liberal Education Reform--Race, Class, & Gender. The UW-System diversity requirement was introduced by S. Ducksworth-Lawton. Focus is on the four United States major groups and at least three credits. Discussion was supportive for the recommendation made to amend the requirements for two courses in the ULEC, GE reform draft to include “or a minimum of 6 credits.” Moved and seconded, two courses (or a minimum of 6 credits), at least one of which is focused on the four United States ethnic groups (which are identified in the formal motion). Motion passed 7-1
9. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.