Minutes
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Volume 49, Number 17
February 5, 2013

Present: L. Bica, S. Duckworth-Lawton, G. Hanson-Brenner, J. Hoepner, DB. Nowlan, J. Pratt (Chair), S. Wical, and S. Fish (Student Senator)

Guests: David Baker, Margaret Cassidy, Jill Pruschiek, Mary Hoffman, Jennifer Fager, Marc Goulet, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning and Gail Scukanec

Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

1. Minutes of 1/22 and 1/29 meetings were approved with revisions.

2. APC Proposal for Liberal Education Reform discussion continued:

   Changes had been sent out on the 60-credit rule and they were approved as revised.

   L. Bica asked if there were any programs where one could complete a major and a minor in the same program.

   B. Nowlan reiterated D. Mowry’s concern that he mentioned at the last APC meeting: if a move develops to eliminate prerequisites for minors, how might this effect comprehensive majors?

   Education was identified as having prerequisites. There are many minors with hidden requirements making a minor up to 29 or more credits. What are the implications for Social Work? Nursing has classes you have to take before Nursing classes can be taken.

   The claim that requiring a minor provides students with structure was stated.

   The committee discussed that in addition to a standard major a student could take another standard major, a minor or a certificate.

   The importance of employers being able to see that students had completed coursework was noted. With a minor or with two certificates, students might be better able to secure desirable employment.

   S. Duckworth-Lawton indicated that the History Department would prefer two topical certificates, which students could customize.

   L. Bica noted that no other university in the University of Wisconsin system requires a minor and indicated that the concern that programs would go under is not happening on other
campuses. Instead, students could benefit from greater flexibility if UWEC removed the requirement of a minor.

UWEC could offer a minor and a whole array of options with the minor just being one of them.

B. Nowlan supports the idea of greater flexibility.

Chair Pratt suggested baby steps or making transitional steps as we would likely encounter opposition if the requirement of a minor was removed at this point.

B. Nowlan indicated that a certificate could become a minor.

Chair Pratt suggested that in three to five years perhaps we will see a shift and there will be a time to eliminate the minor and revisit what we decide on now.

Student Representative S. Fish asked about when changes made to requirements would apply to students.

S. Duckworth-Lawton indicated that it was the catalog of the year a student first attends UWEC that guides the requirements for a student. It was also indicated that implementation could be immediate upon the Chancellor’s approval.

Dean Baker read program requirements of UW La Crosse and UW Green Bay from respective websites.

It was suggested that a majority of students pursue a minor or certificate without the requirements of having to do so.

J. Fager said that before put a credit attachment, we need to be in line with industry standards.

The motion was made and seconded that students, in addition to completing a standard major, must complete another standard major, a minor or a certificate.

B. Nowlan said that we should add a secondary area of concentration with a “such as” before the examples. This amendment was approved.

The final motion follows:

“Remove the major-minor concentration from the baccalaureate degree requirements and replace that requirement with a requirement that a standard major be supplemented by a secondary area of concentration such as another standard major or a minor or a certificate.”

The motion carried with 5 in favor and 1 opposed.
3. We then set about looking at the language in the catalog. C. Manning indicated that we should strike the sentence that read that students should consult the English department.

B. Nowlan agreed that this issue applied to each of the five cases.

S. Duckworth-Lawton discussed her matching exercise and said that the responsibility and knowledge requirements intersect. She said that the class that she looked at met R1, R2, K1, K2 and maybe even K3. She talked about doing a matching for History 205: Women’s History and the four outcomes met by this class.

It was decided that we needed to defer this discussion until we have all the data from the matching exercises.

J. Fager said that if we have a class that meets four outcomes, then we have to assess for all four outcomes.

Chair Pratt said that we would pick up the discussion of Proposal Components at the next meeting.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie H. Wical, Secretary for the meeting