Minutes
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Volume 50, Number 7
November 26, 2013


Guests: Jill Prushiek; Gail Scukanec, Cathy Thorsen; D. Jansen; R. Battalio; T. Perchinsky

1. Meeting minutes: Minutes from the 11/12/13 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Department of Special Education Proposals: Early Childhood Emphasis, Unified Early Childhood Emphasis & UEC Prefix

C. Thorsen presented the proposal to create a unified Early Childhood Special Education/Early Childhood Regular Education Emphasis. Current curriculum requires students to complete the EC Regular Education emphasis at UW-River Falls. About 95% of students do complete the dual certification. Program development has been supported by a Blugold Commitment proposal.

J. Markgraf asked if this would end the collaboration with UW-River Falls. C. Thorsen replied that yes, after the current students complete the emphasis. River Falls provides both the EC Regular and the Special Education certification for their students. This will free up resources for UW-River Falls and has been a long-standing discussion between the two programs. UW-Eau Claire will be able to recruit high school students for both certifications, reduce overall credits, and expand programming. Students will be able to meet market expectations for the combination of early education/early special education certification. Whitewater is the only other program to have an integrated program.

J. Hoepner commented that this model would be a good program to help meet the call for inclusion in schools. C. Thorsen commented that some people are wanting more years of early child education for children who are younger than 5 years old.

J. Pratt wondered about the status of the BC grant. According to C. Thorsen, the status of the grant is not certain, and the program cannot proceed without the position from the BC grant. R. Battalio commented that the department is counting on that new BC position, and that it would create more work for the department if the BC position is not funded. R. Battalio stated that the department really believes in the program and the potential for increasing the qualifications of new graduates. According to Dean Scukanec, if the BC proposal is not funded, the COEHS still supports the program change.

J. Pratt asked about the probability of offering a stand-alone option in the future. C. Thorsen commented that this would give the department a safety net in the event the BC proposal does not get funded.

M. Carney stated that because it is an emphasis, once it has Chancellor approval it does not need any additional, higher level approval.
S. Ducksworth-Lawton moved and J. Markgraf seconded to establish the emphasis in Unified Early Childhood (950-xxx), and to suspend the emphasis in Early Childhood, (Code 950-096). Motion passed 8-0.

S. Ducksworth-Lawton moved and J. Markgraf seconded to establish a new prefix called UEC (Unified Early Childhood) in the Department of Special Education. Motion passed 8-0.

3. Military Leave Policy

T. Perchinsky presented the motion by reviewing the history of how military leaves have been considered and outlined the proposed leave policy.

S. Ducksworth-Lawton spoke to the importance of the policy. T. Perchinsky clarified the retroactive withdrawal option. J. Markgraf noted a typo in the proposed policy.

S. Ducksworth-Lawton moved to establish a military leave program and appropriate language as specified in the draft catalog text. J. Hoepner seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

4. Upcoming Agenda Items
No upcoming agenda items were noted.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Mowry, recorder for the meeting

Sent from my iPad