Minutes
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Volume 50, Number 8
December 10, 2013


1. Meeting minutes: Minutes from the 11/26/13 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. Entrepreneurship Certificate was presented by Tim Vaughan

The Entrepreneurship Certificate will be accessible to non-business majors who wish to learn how to start a business. The Entrepreneurship Certificate can be obtained by the completion of 12 stand-alone credits—three required courses and a fourth course where students develop a business plan or Management 471 (by the consent of the instructor).

J. Markgraf asked if this will increase the demand. T. Vaughan replied that it would not have a negative impact on the university. He expects that there will be room for a couple of extra students. He indicated that interest was expressed by other departments including Materials Science. N. Gannon added that there are art majors looking for that type of experience. S. Ducksworth-Lawton added that this could be helpful for those who are music majors. D. Mowry asked if this certificate would also apply to people who are interested in social justice issues. T. Vaughan indicated that it could be for people who seek employment or experience in non-profits.

S. Fish asked how the certificate stacked up to others. T. Vaughan indicated that benchmarking was done within the system and outside of it.

Chair Pratt asked about the human resources impact and if there were any cons to having the certificate program. T. Vaughan indicated that there would not be a negative impact. There were no cons; the certificate has a limited scope in that the curriculum is designed so that students could start a business. Time will tell.

S. Ducksworth-Lawton moved to establish a certificate program in Entrepreneurship in the Department of Management. J. Markgraf seconded. The motion passed 9-0.

3. Colleen Marchwick presented the proposal to change the service provider for study abroad in Ghana. She stated that there was a huge reduction in cost and that the change would impact courses. The Center for International Education (CIE) had used ISAP Direct and wanted to switch to USAC. CIE already uses USAC for its study abroad in France. The services provided by USAC are the same as those provided by ISAP. There is a resident director on site and students will have some kind of designated support. Academic coursework will not change that much. Students will have the option to choose
from four classes. USAC does have a lower GPA requirement—2.5 compared to 3.0—which may make the program more accessible. Students buy their own food, but there is a pick-up service at the airport.

S. Ducksworth-Lawton noted that the museum tours indicated in the course descriptions did not address the history of the slave trade as the courses seem a bit celebratory. C. Marchwick said that she would look into it and report back. CIE will not have control over the content. S. Ducksworth-Lawton concerned that black students would not find the desired experience of learning about slave trade.

The courses are taught by faculty contracted by USAC and two of them are at the University of Ghana and instructors are reviewed by the USAC Board of Directors. There is the possibility that students would have reduced exposure to faculty at home university.

S. Ducksworth-Lawton indicated that she would have concerns about a USAC course counting for an African History course.

C. Marchwick indicated that both of the programs assist students in volunteer activities. She also mentioned the enrollment since 2007.

The question was asked about the USAC’s relationship to the University of Nevada, Reno. C. Marchwick indicated that Reno is the home of the Consortium.

Chair Pratt asked if a 3.0 was a barrier for our students and C. Marchwick indicated that we really could not know.

L. Bica moved to change service providers from ISAP to USA C for the CIE Study Abroad Program in Ghana. N. Gannon seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

4. Provost Patricia Klein and Dean Mike Wick provided feedback on the program reviews. They shared with the committee a spreadsheet that showed what actions have been taken, so that we could see what the status is on the Review Committees’ recommendations for Program Reviews for Chemistry, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Economics, English, Geology, Honors, Latin American Studies and Women’s Studies. While Provost Klein indicated that program reviews for the College of Business and the College of Nursing do not loop around back to APC, she did indicated that the Environmental Public Health (ENPH) program is moving out of the College of Nursing and will become part of the Watershed Institute. All paperwork for that will become effective July 1, 2014. They will be able to add another faculty member.

Provost Klein thanked the APC for being very thorough and thoughtful. She indicated that some of the good ideas could not be implemented at this time because of resource implications.

S. Fish asked for an electronic copy of the spreadsheet to share with other student representatives.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie H. Wical, Secretary for the meeting