

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 55, Meeting No. 18
Tuesday, March 19, 2019
Chancellors Room, 311 Davies

Present: *Members:* Janice Bogstad, Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, Joel Friederich, Bob Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Hans Kishel, Der-Fa Lu, Bill Miller, David A. Miller, Darrell Newton, Vicki Samelson
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Mary Hoffman, Deb Jansen, David Jones, Marcus McEllistrem

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from March 12, 2019

- Motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019, as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (7-0-0).

2. Honors Program Review

- David Jones was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. 24 credit program, 21 credits if serving as HNRS mentor. Director works to recruit faculty and community members to teach courses, incoming director will need to continue to build on those relationships. Currently close to 900 students/8% participation which is the maximum that can be sustained. Offer 30 courses per semester. Honors contributes to Guidepost Goals, specifically, graduation rate: HNRS students average 3.8 years to graduation. Holistic Admissions process allows for admittance of more students of color. Holistic Admissions process needs improvement, ten faculty/staff help in the review and David would like the readers to be consistent. Only two individuals are in the office, would like to amplify student activities outside of program but there isn't time.
- During previous review, it was recommended to "permanently stabilize the Honors Faculty Fellow position". Are budgetary constraints the sole reason this was lost?
 - Relates in part to budget and prioritizing. When David was in the position (2014), it was a 5-credit reassignment. However, since Dr. Ivy left, some of the funding for her position was redirected to the curricular budget. Full-time faculty are hard to find, the curricular budget did increase; however, at the same time there wasn't an opportunity to hire a Fellow. 2015-2016 brought additional changes. Curricular funding increased due to departmental faculty reassignment. Did have a one-semester Fellow who was paid a \$1500 overload rate; may be budget to continue something similar
- Workload issues related to the director have been articulated. As interim, have you been able to help define them?
 - 2-3 sections of HNRS 400 are offered per semester (required by all seniors). Historically, director has taught it. Used curricular resources to have academic staff teach them now. External report made good observations. Currently David teaches 6 credits, last semester he taught 12 credits due to the large incoming class. It's a bad habit, and Jeff did the same. Doesn't allow for the director to do as much directing, need to account for that in the director's PD. It's not sustainable. Need to clearly define the director's role in teaching. The PD has been revamped to address those concerns
- IRC recommends establishing two advising positions to be housed in McIntyre Library/Honors to remove the burden from current staff. With ARCC, is that recommendation still applicable?
 - Pam Golden does advising but isn't being compensated for it. Level of advising needed is above ARCC, more similar to faculty advising with a lot of circumstances, e.g., special

opportunities and scholarship, a vast array of major-minor combinations, each department has a different set of HNRS requirements.

- Specifically, what would HNRS advisors do beyond ARCC advisers?
 - Would need to be more knowledgeable with Oxford, Fulbright, departmental requirements. Argument will be that we can train someone in ARCC to do this. Conversations have taken place with Billy, it is an unnecessary workload for David and Pam.
- How does current advising structure work?
 - Get advising from Pam and ARCC. Students meet with an adviser in their major cluster; each ARCC adviser needs to be aware of requirements. HNRS has given workshops to provide an overview for ARCC advisers. Also have about 50 contracts per semester for students who want to change a regular course into an HNRS course.
- Do you support IRC's suggestion of assigning two ARCC advisers onsite for HNRS?
 - David is in support of the idea but flexible on the location. Having more staff onsite would allow students to see it's a place they can go to study and get guidance – kind of like the Writing Center. Would also be beneficial if the students have other issues as well. Two advisers vs. all advisers being somewhat knowledgeable. AVC Newton is against the idea. All ARCC advisers should be capable of advising for HNRS efficiently.
- Where does the recommendation of moving toward an Honors College reside? Is it necessary or recommended?
 - In perfect world would be good. Currently no budget officer beyond staff, would provide prestige and prominence for the program. When PD was written, Provost included *Honors College*
- What would an Honors College look like?
 - Residence halls, an academic/destination program, 24 credits with some disciplinary, can have more of a prevailing philosophy in a college, some faculty are assigned to college, adds infrastructure, usually a director becomes a dean, required activities for students, becomes a small community allowing students to be better connected, better retention, graduate faster
 - Current budget of \$165,000 for curriculum + 1.5 FTE. Not sure a College is sustainable.
 - ♦ If the University moves in that direction, the budget would be rethought. It's on Provost's radar, on PD, unsure of where Chancellor stands.
 - ♦ Does help to have HNRS students embedded in courses now, helps other students succeed
- Program Review Form
 - No 7 – APC agrees
 - No 10 – APC disagrees
 - No 11 – APC agrees

3. Proposal for new Comprehensive Major: Biomedical Engineering (Code XXX-XXX)

- Marc McEllistrem was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Request needs to be approved by faculty governance prior to being submitted to System. Working on language with System now.
- Can you discuss the number of required credits and how many of those courses would have to be taken through the NVEC? Would those be face-to-face or online?
 - No courses in BME offered, no one else is offering the major. We'd have to hire faculty to teach the courses here. Coordinating with NVEC to insure transfer students can transfer between institutions, need to work out articulation of courses

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- Why 93 credits instead of 60?
 - Multiple stakeholders, ABET's accreditation requires 128+ credits
- Is there a 4-year course plan mapped out?
 - Not developed yet, no one on this campus is able to deliver this curriculum; CHEM, PHYS, MATH and some of ENG are here, but no biomedical
- How many faculty are being requested?
 - Legislature asked what majors would be provided if additional funding was provided, UW System requested a biomedical engineering major, so the program is being developed. It fits the requests from the state and is consistent with plan to partner with Mayo. If no additional budget is provided, the major won't proceed
- What labs are required? No space in Phillips for additional labs.
 - Need both research and teaching labs. Currently space in a privately-owned building on the corner of Menomonie and Clairemont which Mayo is leasing and we would sublease. University hopes to build a new science building
- Don't have resources to currently offer the program, if approved would be offered in Fall 2020, all based on the current envisioning of state's budget?
 - APC is basically approving the proposal if the state provides the funding. It doesn't have to be implemented, System can hold it for 5 years and a 3-year extension can then be given
- Discussion will continue at an upcoming meeting

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting