

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 55, Meeting No. 22
Tuesday, April 23, 2019
Chancellors Room, 311 Davies

Present: *Members:* Janice Bogstad, Joel Friederich, Der-Fa Lu, Bob Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Hans Kishel, Bill Miller, David A. Miller, Darrell Newton, Vicki Samelson
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Warren Gallagher

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

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from April 16, 2019

- Motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2019, as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (5-0-0).

2. Department of Chemistry Program Review

- Warren Gallagher was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Recommendations: implementing a systematic approach to strategic planning—working on it; better communication among faculty—low morale across campus, hope to have a retreat, do thing outside of work; align courses with program array and assessment; increasing focus on addressing EDI issues—now have a standing committee that focuses on it; make access to collaborative research opportunities transparent for students—looking at creating a more systematic approach, application process, embed into courses; increase HIP opportunities for students who don't participate in research—more intentional in getting students into internships, currently hiring faculty to hopefully help this; safety training—safety always an issue, Phillips makes it difficult to carryout research safely, hoping for a new building; clarifying expectations for tenure and promotion (DEP)—it's reviewed every year, don't have a checklist; become actively involved in the planning of new science building
- Explain the origin of how the Biochemistry Molecular Biology (BMB) major came to be accounted for within Biology and not Chemistry and the impact it has.
 - Chemistry majors would increase by 50%. A number of students do research with Chemistry faculty; however, the credit returns to their major department. Major was formed in the late 80s as a joint effort, listed as an interdisciplinary major in Catalog, somewhere along line due to computer system had to decide where it would be housed, and it ended up with Biology. Used to be an 81-credit major, now 69 credits and almost equal credits between Biology and Chemistry.
- External reviewer mentions ARCC. How regularly does department meet with ARCC advisers about issues, concerns about Chemistry located in life sciences vs. physical science?
 - Have a good relationship with their ARCC advisers, meet with them in a small group or with Warren only at least once per semester. Think they were placed with life sciences as students typically start in Biology and end up in Chemistry or vice versa. Some concern about students wanting to major in Chemistry and not thinking they'd find it in life sciences. Have some concerns about insuring students meet with the department as they get further along.
- How do you plan to move forward with DEP?
 - DEP has evolved over many years, don't have a checklist but focus on expectations. Depends on yearly review and whether they feel the faculty is moving in the right direction.
- Where will go you with uneven demand for CHEM 105/106? Recurring issue that isn't sustainable.
 - Feel it's outside of the department's control, especially in the fall. Half of FTE is needed to teach the courses in the fall. Pressure coming from incoming nursing students (1/3 of those enrolled).

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- Have you had communication with deans and Provost? It isn't sustainable. Is purpose to serve the University's needs as it relates to LE/GE versus insuring you have a robust number of majors/minors? Load has shown up in both reviews. It's not fair for upperclassmen if it impacts time-to-degree.
 - Need to determine how to get students through when some of the courses they need can't be offered yearly. Nursing students require chemistry their first semester. A lot of enrolled students don't have the minimum math, Chemistry would like to raise the requirement. Nursing doesn't require college algebra. It's also a retention issue.
- A lot of HIPs in collaborative research, do you get credit for those who do it in summer?
 - All BMB goes back to Biology, even if it's a CHEM directed studies course, credit follows student back to department of their major.
 - Why is it tracked by major instead of by the professor supervising research?
- Have a lot of alumni working in the chemical industry, how many of your students get an internship?
 - Don't keep track of it, will talk to Geology about their process
 - Recommend including internship coordinator responsibilities to new hire's contract so it's part of load. Department has infrastructure and this will get credit for them.
- Strongly support recommending working with other STEM staff to hire someone to take care of equipment.
- Are there viable substitutions for courses that students aren't able to take/miss?
 - A couple of the majors are ACS certified. There are workarounds, but they aren't always ideal. Do try to get them out in four years
- Are there other possibilities for HIPs such as study abroad or intercultural immersions?
 - Those options are recommended to students, used to have an exchange with Hong Kong but it was one-sided (coming to UWEC only). Working to embed research projects into classes.
- In addition to our metrics, HIPs are also tracked at System level, important to keep track of what students are doing.
- Does ACS certification directly impact students?
 - More value to department than student; attracts students looking for a Chemistry program, insures we have the right faculty, breadth of classes, equipment, institutional support; does help those going onto grad school.
- May want to do an exit survey for graduates, like Accounting and Finance
- How are students made aware of possible faculty collaborative research projects, is it embedded into early chemistry courses?
 - Need to do something systematic, external reviewer gave some examples to consider, currently have group meetings where they are presented to students, have display cases so students can see what others are doing, recommend students become involved in ACS Club which will allow them to learn from upperclassmen
- Strategic plan for 5-7 years is mentioned, what do you personally envision?
 - Faculty will be retiring, will bring in new people and need to determine the direction the department should go; also need to determine what the department wants the new building to look like
- Academic Department/Program Review Form No. 7: Committee agrees with Chair (disagree)

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting