

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 56, Meeting No. 18
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams

Present: *Members:* Travis DuChene, Bob Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Hans Kishel, Der-Fa Lu, Joel Meier, Bill Miller, Darrell Newton, Vicki Samelson, Evan Weiher
Guests: Erica Benson, Margaret Cassidy, Mary Hoffman, Deb Jansen, Jean Pratt, Benita Wagner

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

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from April 14, 2020, and April 21, 2020

- Motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2020, and April 21, 2020, as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (7-0-0).

2. Proposal to Change Service-Learning Policy

- Motion to approve the proposal to change the Service-Learning Policy. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (7-0-0).

3. Department of English Program Review

- Erica Benson was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Department brings a lot of strengths to the University. Biggest challenges are funding and staffing for Blugold Seminar/Critical Writing and staffing in general. Lost faculty positions since 2015, have had a few successful hires, many have been diverse. Undergrad population currently around 9.8% students of color; however, historical data not as high. Department wants to focus on ways in increase this (review names of courses, determine what is happening in courses that might be turning students off). Good relationship with ARCC. Meet at least once per semester and communicate well. Aware students do not understand the adviser relationships and where to go with questions. Would like to continue to work on this and provide more resources for thinking about career development and enhancement.
- IRC report discussed concern from students relating to course sequencing/availability. Does this coincide with caps imposed at 300- and 400- level?
 - The department follows best practices, places appropriate caps on all courses. May be a communication issue. Have done extensive analysis of students' needs and know enough seats are being offered to get them through sequencing. Creative Writing courses need to be taken in sequence and can cause issues depending on when the major is declared. Sometimes a student is unable to register for their preferred course, but there is always a substitution.
- Does ARCC use a degree plan provided by the department to help advisers navigate?
 - Yes, also provide a 2-page advising guide and create additional guides at ARCC's request.
- Workload issues?
 - Was a real problem with the graduate program, which has been voted on to be suspended. At undergraduate level, concern with balancing teaching and service.
- Sustainability of Blugold Seminar? Funded with WIN SUM/Blugold Commitment, primary concern with funding NITR and visiting professors?
 - When initially funded, during the fourth year of BCDT funding it would go to base; this never happened. Remains a concern. Need to reapply for funding every three years, moving to base would be very helpful but still would not cover all salaries. Changed model in 2015 to allow students to test out of Blugold Seminar (approx. 18% do).

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- Why does the department use NITR staff and do they work for the department every year?
 - Administrative reasons. Visiting professors are meant to be limited term, NITR for four years. Still rely on other NITR, some stay and others leave because of insecurity of contract. Do quite a bit of yearly hiring for the NITR positions. This is also related to sabbaticals.
- Compare the department's situation to other departments?
 - Not sure of other departments that rely so heavily on NITR staff. Lost final IAS Redbook position due to VSIP and other open IAS Redbook positions were eliminated. Have asked but told no. This is the first year requesting an IAS Redbook position through the faculty position request process.
- Concerns or issues related to UWEC-BC. Curriculum embedding or staff embedding issues?
 - Personnel matters are different but have come to an agreement on curriculum. Want them to be part of department, they are included in professional development of Blugold Seminar. Navigating relationships, infrastructure, summer course assignments. Want to work as one department across two campuses.
- Program Review Form – Committee unanimously agrees to the recommendations of the Chair and Dean. (7-0-0)

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting