University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 58, Meeting No. 16
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
VL 1128 or via Zoom

Present:  
*Members:* Scott Clark, Rahul Gomes, Abby Hemmerich, Mary Hoffman, Marquell Johnson, Carol Koroghlanian, Bill Miller, Kati Morley, Dalete Mota, Evan Weiher  
*Guests:* Jim Boulter, Margaret Cassidy, Marc Goulet, Deb Jansen, Phil Ihinger, Sonja Meiers, Karen Mumford, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, Sarah Vitale

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

Meeting Minutes

1. **Approval of minutes from April 12, 2022**  
   - Motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2022, as submitted. Motion was seconded and approved (7-0-0).

2. **Proposal from the Center for International Education to establish a USAC program in Thailand**  
   - Colleen Marchwick was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. USAC offering a semester and summer program at Khon Kaen University. Several subject areas offered and internships available during summer.  
     - Update on travel abroad? Sent 3 students to CETS during Summer ’21, 11 students were abroad in fall ’21, and 90 students are abroad this spring. In the past, the number of students traveling abroad in the spring was around 140. State Department is decoupling from the CDC’s guidelines when making travel recommendations.  
   - Motion to approve the proposal from the Center for International Education to establish a USAC program in Thailand. Motion was seconded and approved (9-0-0).

3. **Proposal from the Public Health and Environmental Studies Program for Academic Department Designation.**  
   - Karen Mumford and Jim Boulter were in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Recommended by Provost and Dean due to program growth, particularly in Public Health, and an increase in majors/minors and number of faculty (from one half-time faculty to 5.5 faculty). Also due to $9.4M Workforce Innovation Grant award; one initiative of the grant is creation of a Master of Public Health (MPH). Will also help with visibility and recruitment. No structural difference between program to department. Will be important to be a department for MPH accreditation purposes.  
     - Will department pursue accreditation? Will be essential for MPH. May consider it for undergrad, but currently no plan to.  
     - Which accrediting agency? CEPH – Council on Education for Public Health  
     - Was the entire College of A&S consulted or multiple departments and was the response favorable? Consultation with social sciences within A&S and outside entities. Was approved unanimously by the College Curriculum Committee and had overwhelming support at College level (some concern about the word *environmental*, but the program name was already voted on and approved).  
     - Effective 2023-24 Catalog; however, it can be used for advertising and recruiting immediately.  
   - Motion to approve the proposal from the Public Health and Environmental Studies Program for Academic Department Designation. Motion was seconded and approved (9-0-0).
4. Proposal from the Department of Geology for Rename

- Phil Ihinger was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Request change from the Department of Geology to the Department of Geology and Environmental Science. Better reflects who the department is and what they do. Have had majors and emphases using the word environment for decades. Has been a major part of the curriculum for years; 48% of majors are receiving degrees in Environmental Studies or Hydrogeology. Has been a trend during the past 30 years in geology and earth science to include environmental science in the name; the department should have requested the change sooner. “Ownership” of the words environmental science generated some controversy; however, not adding the words is doing a disservice to students, the College, and department. The department is very interdisciplinary and relies on what happens in BIOL, CHEM, GEOG, and PHES. The environmental science emphasis requests students to take a course from those departments. Aware this proposal would create controversy and engaged with the other departments; think in the end there is support.
  - Biology wasn’t keen on it in the fall, but discussed it and came to appreciate Geology isn’t claiming “ownership.” Geology creates a lot of environmental scientists. Biology has Ecology and Environmental emphasis. Name change will make others aware of Geology’s breadth.
  - Geologists do a lot of environmental science jobs, and this is one way of making undergrads aware of potential careers associated with the bigger field of geology, may help steer them in a career direction they may not have thought about without name change.
  - PHES discussions? Feel PHES will be fighting for students who don’t know where they belong? Attended a faculty meeting with them and they didn’t raise a concern about overlap. Their programs don’t train environmental scientists like Geology; don’t see it as overlap.
  - Effective 2023-24 Catalog; however, it can be used for advertising and recruiting immediately.

- Motion to approve the proposal from the Department of Geology for Rename. Motion was seconded and approved (8-0-0).

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting