

MINUTES
Academic Council
February 4, 2014

The Academic Council met on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the Smoky Hill Room of the Memorial Union.

Members present: Mark Bannister, Jeff Briggs, Tim Crowley, Eric Deyo, Cindy Elliott, Paul Faber, Dennis King, Robert Scott, and Chris Crawford, Chair

Guests: Cindy Elliott, President Hammond, Chap Rackaway, Stacey Smith

1. SIAS Majors

According to Shawn Chen, SIAS will be receiving independence status from Chinese. When this happens, SIAS will be required to have a sponsor which we have agreed to do. The University needs to start looking at other degrees we might be interested in offering at SIAS. In China the only ones that will work are those that create more income or add more value. If they can get the dual degree, and it gives them the ability to make more money, we have a chance. We are eliminating the BGS and INT because students no longer feel that this degree provides them with the ability to make more money or add values to their Chinese degrees. Dr. Hammond feels Shawn may be able to make changes or restructure the degree. Of the two degrees, we are considering, hospitality management has potential. Social Entrepreneurship doesn't have a chance because they don't understand what it means. Dr. Hammond needs to know by April on what degrees we want to offer. If Shawn opens it up, then we have a chance with Global Business English if it is tied to a major. There is a possibility of offering graduate degrees if we offer the correct one once Shawn gets independence.

2. AAUP Non Tenure Track Article Changes

The Council discussed the article changes brought forward by Todd. The 60, 75 and 90 percent workload will be used for distance education purposes, not on campus. It seems the article is addressed to the administrative perspective and not the faculty. These changes will need to be approved by AAUP. However, MOA cannot trump administrative prerogative. Sentence 7a has some wording changes. Currently we have no base salary for a senior lecturer. Dr. Faber suggested \$3000. Dr. Briggs is supportive of these changes because he feels it is more equitable. However, his concern is the default workload. All of the deans agreed they will use the title of lecturer instead of instructor for these positions. The question is how it will be executed. Dr. Faber expressed his concern that the new president will be tempted to use this and force faculty to teach more courses. After some deliberations, Chris indicated he will move forward on the article, but will share the Council's discussion with the president, Todd Powell and AAUP.

3. General Education Task Force Plan

Faculty Senate has developed a task force with broad representation across campus. This group will lead the conversation but there are other stakeholders. The rest is the process of reviewing the program. A general education survey will be going out to students and faculty on what they would like to have in a general education program. Dr. Rackaway welcomes feedback from the Council. One omission of names on the task force was Dr. Faber. As the chair of the General Education Committee, he will be added to the task force. Dr. Scott indicated he would like to blow up the current program and have a brand new program to offer our students. We should start with the learner outcomes from our students and based on that, build a program. It is a matter of institutional goals vs. educational goals. We need a 21st century program where benchmarks can be used such as Kent State, University of Omaha, PSU and KU. Dr. Rackaway was authorized to move forward with this process and membership.

4. STEM Data

At one of the previous meetings, the question was raised as to what is counted as STEM in our performance agreement. A list was provided by KBOR and distributed to the Council. This is based on the CIPS Code.

5. Last Date of Attendance and Blackboard

It continues to be an issue for our financial aid office to determine the last date of attendance for the students who receive the Pell Grant funds. Once faculty remove a student from class, Blackboard is unable to determine the last day of attendance for that student. It is being proposed that Blackboard be set up to allow all the students be removed from the class but the records be saved for future use. Faculty will be given instructions on how to put grades in the grade book and still keep attendance records in Blackboard. Susan was given permission to begin dropping students from classes as long as she is in communication with faculty, then this will happen today.

6. Action Plan Funding

A list of the action plans that were funded was distributed to the Council. The action plans requesting FTE will be reviewed later in the semester depending on legislative funding. Letters will be going out to budget units from Larry Getty.

7. Position Control Timing

The question has been raised about reviewing position control at an earlier date. In the past, it has been based on the Legislature and later in the year. Most deans prefer the later date. Therefore, it will remain as is for another year. The idea of moving forward with funding for GTA's will be put on hold until the next president.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.