

Faculty senate minutes
November 24, 2009
Olin auditorium

Roll called 11:35

Excused: Stone, Nabhan-Warren, Day, Gillette, Mahn, Horowitz.

Absent: Bonzon, Culver, Hildreth, Olsen, Storl, Youngberg, Coussens, Jensen, Magalhaes, Wegman-Geedey, Al-wazedi, Cleveland, Daniels, Hartman, Morse, Warren, Zargar.

Crowe said that we can skip the approval of minutes from the last meeting since they have not yet been completed. Today we'll talk only about the proposals of new majors and programs. Can we take it as a friendly amendment to the graphic design proposal to include citations?

Varallo: I'd like to take each proposal in turn because there are significant differences and they came into being in different ways. I'd suggest starting with international business.

Van Howe: The physics professors need to be in lab by 12.30, so could we talk about physics/engineering first?

Bengtson agreed with Varallo and finds the international business proposal least problematic.

Van Sandt said that the business administration department has been talking about an international business major for 2-3 years. It is a logical extension of what they do. Globalization is happening and we need to bring that to students. Four of our ten full time faculty and administrators are from other countries. Ann Ericson has taught on foreign term. We have the expertise already.

Ericson said that the department has long thought that there should be international experiences for their students. Now with Augie Choice we don't think that such an international experience would be such a financial burden to students. The foreign language requirement supports the liberal arts. There has been a campus wide drive to have more students go overseas and this proposal is part of that movement.

Varallo: This major seems significantly different from other majors. The foreign language requirement is tremendous. She expressed concern about the requirement of 300-level classes with the G-suffix and wondered if there would be enough available courses to meet the demand.

Ericson: The worksheet obtained from Academic Affairs shows quite a few such classes. We think the program will fit with language study programs, which already provide a lot of G suffixes. We think a lot of students will double major because of the overlap.

Bertsche: A lot of Augustana study abroad programs could also apply for G suffix for their coursework.

Varallo: This program won't require new position and the proposal is uncontroversial.

Bertsche: This program could really help not just our department but all foreign languages, especially with the opportunity to go abroad and take coursework in the foreign language.

Abernathy: The funds came from same source we discussed and are connected to the expectation to attract new students to the college.

Crowe: How many new students?

Abernathy: 15 additional.

Crowe: How can we determine how many students come for the new major?

Abernathy: Students are asked when they come in what they're interested in studying.

Fenwick: Is that how you decide which majors will bring in the most students?

Abernathy: We looked at where we see growth in demand at other liberal arts colleges. We took all the proposals that we got and those that had proposals specifically for faculty we targeted for support through this fund.

Craig: We've talked about this change from a concentration within the business major to a separate major for many years.

Dehnel: Will the international business concentration remain an option within the business major?

Ericson: We will retain it for now. We are concerned about the requirement to go overseas since students might have other use for Augie Choice money and want to keep both options.

Dehnel: Is there a danger of the concentration taking up most of the students because the major is more work?

Ericson: We hope that the major will couple with language majors or area studies majors. I think students will move over to the major rather than the concentration to get it on their transcript. The concentration does not appear on the transcript.

Van Sandt agreed that most students will move toward the major rather than the concentration for this reason.

McDowell: Are we voting today?

Crowe: The gentleman's and gentlewoman's agreement was to discuss these proposals at two separate meetings before voting, but a motion from the floor is a motion.

Varallo: I move that we vote today.
There was a Second by Hyser.

Dehnel: I'm not on senate but I don't think we should change the deal.

Varallo: I thought we wanted to have a senate meeting rather than a faculty forum so that we could act and not just discuss the matter.

Crowe: The proposal from Senate steering from September was that we would discuss large matters at two separate meetings before voting.

Varallo withdrew her motion to vote.

After audible dissent with that withdrawal, Varallo took back her withdrawal, saying that she did not see the need to wait to vote.

Johnson wondered if there was a quorum. Tracy began to count.

Van Howe wondered if not voting today would mean not being able to come back to the issue for a while.

Hay: A motion to reconsider needs to come from someone who voted against the motion.

Jakielski wondered if the matter was time sensitive since a hire would have to be made.

Van Sandt indicated that their national conference had already taken place and that candidates have already been interviewed. This is the time of year when business faculty are receiving job offers. Yes, time is of the essence.

Tallitsch expressed concern about the relatively low number of people at the meeting and expressed hesitation to make important decisions without more senators involved.

Varallo asked if this was indeed a senate meeting at which business can be conducted or not.

McDowell: I think Dehnel is right. The decision was to have two senate meetings, and this is the second senate meeting.

Tracy: 69% of the faculty senate are here.

Crowe confirmed that there was a quorum. Senate voted, and the international business proposal passed.

Carkner then spoke about the physics engineering proposal . Many people have been interested in engineering on campus for years, and the department has talked for years about strengthening the program. The department has faced a deficit in staff and have petitioned for more faculty so these two needs come together. We have a 3-2 engineering program but we don't have faculty or facilities dedicated to engineering. Prospective students want to see a commitment to the program. Students want something more specific and concrete. We hope we can make those students happy and they'd feel that engineering is important to the college.

Crowe opened the discussion with a question that was submitted anonymously: "The proposed major in Engineering Physics very closely resembles the Physics major. Comparing this proposal to the current Physics major, it appears that all Engineering Physics majors would automatically also be Physics majors. This situation is very similar to the Pre-Med and Biology majors. So: 2 questions to the Senate:

1. By approving major programs that are so similar in their requirements, and allowing for such double-majors, are we effectively decreasing the value of having 2 majors on a single transcript?

2. Should the faculty consider establishing a minimum credit difference between major programs?"

Carkner agrees that the double major in both should be banned because the two majors are too similar. It was an oversight not to explicitly state that students cannot double major in physics and engineering.

Hay wondered if students take engineering and decide they want to do pure physics, would it be hard to switch their major to physics?

Carkner said that it should be easy to switch between the two majors since they are so similar. He expects that students will use engineering as a four-year major as well as for the 3-2 program.

Johnson: Given the number of types of engineering, if you were to add one faculty member, what type of engineering would that person specialize in? What facilities would you need to add?

Carkner: We want to distinguish ourselves from other small liberal arts colleges and we think that one person would make a significant difference.

Van Howe: The new person would probably specialize in mechanical engineering.

Johnson: Would this major be competitive enough?

Carkner: The program would not be comparable to an engineering degree from a large institution like Illinois. Many of our students have gone on to do good work and to good graduate programs. It's understood that the two degrees are different. There are a lot of similarities in the different kinds of engineering, and we think that one faculty member would go a long way to meeting student needs. As far as equipment, we would need computers for computer-aided design, more equipment in the machine shop, we would need a milling machine, and we would need to finish rooms. It would not be an enormous expense.

Hay asked if there is funding for the program's physical needs.

Carkner said that he believed the money will be there.

Abernathy confirmed that the administration has talked about this and that he is confident that Kresge funding will be available.

McDowell asked if the funds were from outside the college or if they came from faculty's non-existent pay raises.

Abernathy said that the college would apply for funds from Kresge Science Fund.

Varallo asked why senior inquiry cannot be a part of the new major.

Carkner said that the department is currently understaffed and needs to cover core classes before adding SI. The department is under pressure from pre-health majors and needs to offer certain classes regularly. If the department had staffing, he would add SI.

Varallo: I'd like to see it to see SI so that the major would be an Augustana liberal arts major.

Carkner: I can't burden faculty with more overloads than they have, especially those who are not tenured. I have to stand up for faculty. We do expect that students will do inquiry in courses like the design class. Senior inquiry in physics requires intensive lab time.

Todd: If new position is staffed, would the new person have to teach in the general education program, such as LSFY?

Carkner: No. That's another issue that we'd like to staff but can't. We have to teach the classes that are on the books first.

Hyser confirmed that a lot of departments would like to teach in the LSFY sequence but don't have the staff to do so.

Todd expressed frustration at adding new majors when we don't cover the majors or classes we already offer.

Van Sandt: We do have a lot of people working more than they should be and teaching overloads. We need to improve that situation, but we only get the additional revenue if we hire people in support of new programs. The point of adding new majors is to bring in students and revenue to address budget shortfalls.

Crowe warned that the senate would lose a quorum soon, as it was 12:08.

Abernathy: We do have funds to cover LSFY needs, which are distributed among various departments. We hope the sciences will be able contribute to LSFY. A science committee is working on this question, reducing the burden on science faculty given their current teaching load. With overloads, the issue is not funding but how we teach the curriculum. We have funds and part time faculty available. There are choices we have to make.

Rayapati warned against getting too personal in criticisms. She said that physics teaches a great class on acoustics that is useful for music students and thus they do offer general education classes. This new program looks like a benefit to the school.

Van Howe: The new hire will teach 100 level physics which is a huge part of the physics department's time. They tried to eliminate the 103 class to allow us to do SI, but that was voted down by the committee that Jeff mentioned.

Carker: We're not against Si, we just can't staff it.

Rayapati moved that the senate vote on the program today. The motion was seconded by Hyser. The motion carried.

Crowe suggested moving on to the graphic design proposal.

Hay suggested a correction to the memo from the art department distributed before the meeting, namely that she did not claim that David Snowball had written the entire proposal but rather one section of it.

Quinn confirmed that Snowball had written the first part of their proposal, which dealt with marketing.

Dehnel asked if a citation had been added, for the section on learning objectives, which Quinn confirmed.

Kramer had a question about how many majors this will attract. The proposal suggests 10-15 students per year, but on a subsequent page, it is suggested the Susquehanna University had 60 in seven years, which is less. The numbers don't make sense.

Abernathy: Snowball might know the exact figures; 60 seems high. The number I've heard from dean of Susquehanna is 30-40 per year. I can't explain the 60 figure.

Dehnel asked what the target number of new students per year is.

Abernathy: 20

Kramer: What else will the new faculty member in graphic arts be able to do? She or he can't offer just 7 graphic arts classes.

Quinn: We'd like to find someone who can teach foundation classes, for example in drawing, as well as some graphics courses for non-majors.

Abernathy: A consultant saw growth in this field at North Central College. A new person there teaches both traditional art and design.

Xiao: The person will teach 5 courses as part of the core of the program and also foundation courses.

Crowe wanted to confirm that those five courses would be an annual obligation for this new person. He wanted to know how much help the department would get with its other offerings.

Xiao: That person will be expected to teach foundation courses as well.

Hay asked if someone from EPC could explain the marketing course that was added.

Ericson explained the business department said they would create a course for that major if they had the funding to support it, that is a course for non majors that is not currently in the curriculum.

Peters asked the art department if they had been talking about graphic design for a while, as business administration had considered international business and physics had considered engineering.

Quinn responded that the department had investigated the matter for about a year. The department seems to lose a part-time graphics person every year. They haven't had the advantage of tapping into an expert who really knows what the program would look like.

Schussheim-Anderson: We've had computer art for about 10 years and graphic design off and on for about 5 years now. Students ask about the major in graphic design but we didn't know if the administration would support it.

Kramer asked where an additional mac lab might be located.

Quinn responded that the lab would be shared with journalism and mass marketing and might be located in Carlsson Evald Hall. It would also be shared with Education. Ideally they would find a bigger space in the following year.

Crowe: I've heard talk of using the former Reading and Writing Center in Old Main for this purpose.

Abernathy confirmed that that is a possibility.

Tracy reported that there was no longer a quorum at 12.20.

Kramer wondered what we'd do if hypothetically, the Old Main building supervisor opposed using the former Reading and Writing Center, Old Main 128, for this purpose.

Dehnel asked what the space is currently used for.

Kramer responded that there are faculty offices located off that space and there are computers for student use. It is a space where students can informally interact and study outside of class and is valuable for that purpose.

Christoffel asked if graphics design would become bigger than the traditional art major.

Quinn responded that it was possible and indeed it is what they are expecting. She said that the senior project consist of a variety of options, including an internship or a traditional art project.

Hurty said that if the college adds a mac lab and adds majors, it needs to get an IT person who can support that platform.

Bertsche noticed a tendency in all three proposals, something he calls credit creep, that is, programs with a large number of required credits. Programs and majors have grown from around 30 to 45 or 50 once you include required supporting coursework. Maybe that s a direction we want to go as a college, in which the major becomes 50% of the coursework. Such a shift to so many required courses on top of the major might affect the ability of students to double major.

Peters expressed a sneaking suspicion that the college is trying to prevent failure by getting bigger and wanted to express a general worry about that.

Johnson moved to adjourn. Schroeder seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20.

Lisa Seidlitz