

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: May 1, 2019

Approved August 21, 2019

1. Roll Call

Ali Arshad, Edgar Vargas Blanco, Gloria Gadsden, Sandra Gardner, Maria Haase, Edward Harrington, Bill Hayward, Anna Koch, Miriam Langer, Abbas Manafy, Beth Massaro, Tyler Mills, Jesus Rivas, Rodney Rock, Chris Stead, Ann Wolf

Also in Attendance: Ian Williamson, Thomasinia Ortiz-Gallegos, Benito Pacheco

Guests: Chien-Chung Chen, Lauren Fath, Sheree Jederberg, Carla Romero, Dean Mary Romero

Absent: Blanca Cespedes, Gil Gallegos, Kathleen Gray, Lara Heflin

2. Approval of the Agenda – **MOTION** made. Seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2019. **MOTION** made. Seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion passes.

4. Subcommittee Report

- a. Undergraduate appeals – no new appeals.
- b. Graduate appeals – no new appeals.
- c. Ballen – no update.

5. Program Review Schedule and Procedures

- a. Health//HPS (Gadsden) – no update. Delayed until Fall 2019.
- b. University Studies (Wolf) – Dr. Eric Romero submitted revised report this week. Subcommittee will review during Fall 2019.
- c. Southwest Studies (Rivas) – No progress. Delayed until Fall 2019.
- d. Computer Science (Heflin) – Report submitted in absentia. Subcommittee Chair sent the CS program feedback a couple weeks ago. CS chair said they would send a revised program review soon. CS has been swamped with thesis defenses and now plans to send a revised copy of the review early next week. Will most likely be postponed to Fall 2019.
- e. English (Harrington) – **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**
 - English and Philosophy department is rather large. Eleven tenure/tenure track faculty and several per course faculty.
 - Program sees itself as a service program also. Serves the Core and works with the School of Business and the School of Education.
 - AAC Subcommittee recommended they write their mission and value statements in a manner like the University's mission statement.
 - Subcommittee recommended program offer more 8-week courses.

- Subcommittee felt the number of majors was low relative to the number of tenure/tenure-track faculty.
- Outcomes assessments well designed. Subcommittee recommended assessing service courses also. Dr. Fath did submit a revision of the program review that reflects this recommendation.
- Department is quite frustrated that they have not had a Philosophy instructor since 2010. No courses offered in philosophy since 2010.
- Program is seeking a philosophy position and more GA positions.
- Program is very active in the Highlands community.
- Dr. Fath added:
 - Program did revise outcomes assessments based on recommendations from the subcommittee.
 - Program emphasized they need a philosophy hire.
 - Department is offering 8-week courses online. Service courses seem to be more successful when offered in this manner. Majors and minors in the program seem to want on-ground courses.
 - The program has been assessing their core courses (ENGL 111 and 112) although the AAC has not followed up with these assessments.
 - The program has been engaged in various recruitment efforts.
- AAC Chair asked about the Writing Center.
 - Has a system to track students now.
 - In the last 3 years, writing center tutors have averaged 510 sessions per year.
 - Writing Center also has a computer lab with 20 computers.
 - Center assessed whether students completed a “full process” (i.e., 3 sessions, one for planning, one for writing, one for revision). Ninety percent of students completed a full process.
 - Center assessed the success of students who used their services – did these students earn an A, B or C in the relevant course? One hundred percent of students met this standard.
 - A third outcome was determining if students returned for a third session (to complete the “process”). Only 19% of students attended a third session. They are examining how to increase this percentage.
- Committee member asked about the number of minors in the program.
 - About 10 minors.
 - AAC members noted that minors in English would be beneficial across disciplines.
 - Discussion ensued about ways to promote the minor.

6. Academic Policies Subcommittee Update

- a. Retro-add/drop process & policy – No update.
- b. Transfer Credit policy – No update.

7. School of Business – Minor revision and course revisions.

- a. **MOTION** made to support new minor and course revisions. Seconded. Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

8. GEOL Paleomagnetism - new course.
 - a. **MOTION** made to support new course proposal. Seconded. Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

9. Graduate Handbook
 - a. **MOTION** made to support changes to Graduate Catalog proposed by Grad Council. Seconded. Vote: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention. Motion passes.

10. School of Ed new course (EDLD 6XXX Educ Res Design for Prac) – discussion item. See discussion below.

11. School of Ed new course (EDLD 6XXX Research Interpretations for Practitioners) – discussion item.
 - a. Both courses discussed together.
 - b. A lot of changes happening with the new PED.
 - c. These are research courses.
 - d. Aligned more closely with the mission of the School.
 - e. These courses will promote the design of research and provide a better understanding of research methods.
 - f. The courses will also “inform practices” in terms of improving schools.
 - g. Will include quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches.
 - h. AAC Chair asked why Educational Leadership would create these courses on their own instead of collaborating with Curriculum and Instruction in order to increase enrollment in the courses. The program will consider this over the summer.
 - i. Will be considered further in Fall 2019.

12. School of Ed – New Program – discussion item.
 - a. School of Education was approached by Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL) about the need for mathematics leadership.
 - b. This “coaching” program will allow New Mexico to improve the quality of teaching.
 - c. AAC Chair asked for some definitions.
 - d. Coaching consists of people who can go in as a “teacher leader.” These leaders will observe instructors and enforce “best practices”. They will then give teachers feedback. This will help to improve instruction and content knowledge.
 - e. LANL states there is a real need for this type of coaching, especially in smaller school districts.
 - f. AAC Chair asked whether this program is consistent with the Governor’s focus on K-12.
 - This type of program is already being developed in other parts of the state.
 - g. The internship experience of this program is unique.
 - h. Evidence that there is a cohort of 7 students interested in this program already.
 - i. Would collaborate with LANL to cover some of the additional costs.
 - j. AAC Chair asked about employment opportunities?

- Program expects HED will move in the direction of coaching and provide funding for such programs.
 - Most schools hire 1-2 “teacher leaders” who work as trainers of teachers.
 - Superintendents support these types of programs also.
- k. There is similar program with the Pojoaque school district.
 - l. Might be opportunities to bring Eastern and Western Las Vegas schools on board with this program.
 - m. Teachers are consistently undertrained and there is a need for these types of programs across the state.
 - n. This was a discussion item and will be further addressed in Fall 2019.

13. School of Business – Program Revision

- a. Currently the BBA program that requires BUSA 2000. The program would like to delete BUSA 2000 and require BMIS 3760 instead. Three main reasons:
 - BUSA 2000 would be considered a “unique” course with respect to the HED alignment. It would take 6 months to have this course approved as part of the core. But they need to offer the course now for their majors.
 - The School of Business had to lower 5 of their 3000-level courses to 2000-level courses. So, it would be wise to add a 3000-level course.
 - This new course includes skills sought by the industry.
 - BMIS 3760 covers the material that was taught in BUSA 2000.
 - Registrar approved the switch. BMIS 3760 will be offered during Fall 2019.
 - Nothing else about the program will change. Just swapping these two courses.
- b. **MOTION** made to support change to BBA. Seconded. Vote: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention. Motion passes.

14. Communication from the Chair

- a. Chair asked for volunteers for AAC Summer Subcommittee. Anna Koch and Miriam Langer volunteered to serve.

15. Communication from the Registrar – no report.

16. Communication from the Faculty Senate (Sandra Gardner)

- a. It was a short meeting.
- b. The Provost’s 3-school model was presented to the BOR. The President proposed a 2-school model.
- c. Discussed the Administration evaluations. About 75% of the faculty participated.
- d. Dr. Gardner did follow-up with the Nursing program. Submitted a matrix to the Senate.

17. Communication from the Graduate Council (Jesus Rivas)

- a. Council continued to discuss changes to graduate handbook.
- b. Dr. David Pan will remain as Chair. Dr. Jesus Rivas will continue as Vice-Chair.

18. Communication from the Administration

- a. Still working on HED Gen Ed courses and common-course numbering. 12 outstanding courses.
- b. Senate came forward with a desire to change the transfer credit policy to be more restrictive. The recommendation has not been approved. Provost felt this would have to go through the BOR because
 - Some concerns that this decision wasn't data driven.
 - Some concerns that the AAC was not given an opportunity to further examine some of the practical matters.
 - Some concerns that this change would prevent us from being in alignment with other schools in New Mexico.
 - Discussion ensued:
 - Some concern that students are taking Straighterline courses instead of core classes at NMHU. But Straighterline seems to be a way of bridging a 3-6 credit gap to degree completion. Little evidence it is replacing the core. Need data to address this question.
 - SEM does not believe this reflects "best practices" for enrollment and recruitment.
 - We need to ensure that it's not harder for our students to graduate. And we need to make sure we're not out of alignment with other schools in NM.
 - The change in the transfer credit policy would also affect HPS. HPS allows students to bring in credits for CPR. Under the new policy, this would not be possible.
 - Only have had 54 students in the last 5 years transfer in a Straighterline course. 75% of these students were athletes.
 - These courses help athletes who are limited with respect to taking classes at certain times. Also helps our post-traditional students.
 - Also some question about why we would accept military credits but not Straighterline when Straighterline undergoes the same exact review process.
 - AAC Chair thought the Senate would recommend each program make their own determination about these courses. Senate made a blanket change instead.
 - This discussion needs to be student driven.
 - What keeps getting battered on is the "standards" issue, but why are Military credits privileged over Straighterline courses? Has anyone even compared Straighterline to military credits or other courses we accept from accredited institutions? Accreditation does not guarantee a higher standard or a better quality.
 - If there is an accredited option? Why wouldn't we go in that direction? Need data to find out how often students have an accredited option versus no option. We don't want students not to graduate if they only need 3-6 credits.
- c. Discussion will hopefully be continued in Fall 2019.

19. Senate Charge regarding “developing a new master’s degree” (Returned to Senate for clarification) – Tabled.
20. Straighterline Discussion - Tabled until further notice.
21. AAC Chair thanked committee members for their service this year.
22. Adjournment: 5:01pm.