

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: May 13, 2019

### **1. Approval of the Agenda**

Addition to the agenda: Registrar's Office coming to talk about changing the policy for double-counting credits for majors and minors

Unanimously approved with change

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Unanimously approved

### **3. Dean's Report**

*Budget and Hiring:* No budget news – held up because of issues in the state. Has put in a request for hiring. Replacement savings are only being counted for people who are retiring this summer or have already left (issue with others saying they will retire but then don't), but the Dean's hiring list included money based on coming retirements. So, first list is probably going to be small, but the Dean is still negotiating about this. Provost did confirm that there will be opportunity hires again next year. We should hear more about this over the summer – the Dean will reach out to Chairs as soon as he hears more. Departments should think about who they might like to target in advance.

*Academic Master Plan:* Now opening dialog with Faculty Council Executive Committee. Process is going to extend into next year because of more formalized system for involvement from faculty.

*UMass Online:* No further news. Has been mentioned downtown as something that might be hurting us in relation to the reduced state budget.

### **4. Moderator's Report**

*Recap on Chancellor's Search:* Faculty Council is concerned that Newman will be appointed without democratic process. FC is looking at a drafted letter that thanks Meehan for coming to campus and asking for faculty input but affirms that nothing can be made permanent without a search. The letter raises the possibility of extending her interim contract for another three years, but not automatically giving her a permanent position (run the national search in three years). FC is voting on the letter today.

*2019-2020 Senate Committees:* Still need 1-2 people to serve on the Senate Executive Committee. Standards and Credits Committee could also use a couple more people.

*Corrections:* Psychology Senator is being replaced by Richard Hunter in the Fall and Keith Welker in the spring; American Studies senator is on leave for the year – Bonnie Miller will replace in the fall and Marisol Négron in the spring; Yun Kim will be co-chair of MHSP with Vivian Ciaramitaro.

*Motion to approve:* Unanimously approved

### **5. Report on Hate Group Propaganda**

Problem with hate groups leaving propaganda on campus and targeting faculty. Affected faculty approached FSU about this, but they don't really have a structure for dealing with it. Nothing at college or university level either. Union is thinking about stepping up and being the site for reporting and responding to the presence of this material. Faculty can report if they feel they are being targeted by on- or off-campus groups. CLA Senate input would be useful given the size of the college and the nature of the material that CLA Faculty teaches. Senator comments that CLA

should be involved as a matter of protecting CLA Faculty who might become targets for these groups. Senator asks what ODI response has been. They don't seem to have a response as yet – no one has been given responsibility for dealing with this, although they suggested that it should be their responsibility. Are thinking about ways to create a climate on campus to make it hostile to this kind of material. Suggestion to not name the groups (and amplify their message) but to instead run a campaign that affirms what UMB is and what it stands for. Suggestion to set up an exploratory group to see how other universities have dealt with this and see if we can create some ideas for action that could be brought to ODI and FSU. Senator mentions that the Save UMB coalition has printed stickers that can be put on hate materials to identify them as hate speech and block the content.

*Decision:* Senate EC will add it to their agenda for the fall – will set up an exploratory committee and liaise with both FSU and ODI.

## **6. Motions from Majors, Honors, and Special Programs to approve the following NEW programs and CHANGES to existing programs.**

*Public history New Program:* Proposal for a new graduate certificate in public history. Supplemental program for graduate students; students don't have to already be doing a history MA. Is designed for the large number of non-history graduate students that take public history MA classes.

*Motion to approve:* Unanimously approved

*Applied Linguistics MA Change:* Changes to French Language Licensure

*Motion to approve:* Unanimously approved

*Psychology PhD Change:* Drop the GRE subject text

*Motion to approve:* Unanimously approved

*Sociology Change:* Change to Criminology and Criminal Justice Major to reduce GPA to declare the major and change the pre-reqs that students are required to take before declaring the major.

*Motion to approve:* Unanimously approved

*Sociology Change:* Six changes to the undergraduate major

*Motion to approve:* Unanimously approved

## **7. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following NEW courses:**

*New courses:* ART/CINE 318L; ART/CINE 351L; COMM 335; ENGL 187G; ENGL 354

*Questions:* No questions

*Motion to approve as a block:* Unanimously approved

## **8. Motions from the Majors, Honors and Special Programs Committee to approve the following CHANGES to courses:**

*Changes to courses:* ART/CINE 293L; ART/CINE 393L; ENG236; ENG475; ENG477; SOC 261; SOCIOL 201; SOCIOL 268; SOCIOL 310; SOCIOL 331; SOCIOL 332; SOCIOL 335; SOCIOL 375L; SOCIOL 383L

*Questions:* Does SOCIOL 355 overlap with POLISCI? POLISCI Senators are unconcerned about this. EC is concerned that the course doesn't address the digital content that the title promises – senators have no response.

*Motion to approve as a block:* Unanimously approved

## **9. Alternative Scheduling Taskforce – Discussion with Karen Horne**

Began because other colleges have moved to two-day scheduling; certain groups in CLA have been pushing for CLA to do this. Provost has agreed to a 15-person taskforce to explore this possibility. The taskforce represents lots of different positions (doesn't have an agenda). Has a survey to send to faculty to ask for input, as well as one for students. Taskforce is considering a two-day/one day schedule: M/Th; Tu/Fr; W, but there is no consensus yet. Question: are some on the taskforce against changing the schedule at all? Most from CLA are in favor of changing the schedule; the most opposed are from the sciences as they are worried about losing large lectures (not enough space). It isn't an issue for labs. Question: Is the goal of the taskforce to create different possibilities for scheduling? Can there be many alternatives, or must we change to one thing? For CLA we can't have multiple start and end times because there isn't enough space. Deviations need to be minimal – the taskforce is looking to change the standard to a two-day a week schedule. Economics currently teaches a two-day a week schedule but only by meeting in the evening. This isn't sustainable for the whole college.

*Responses from senators to the general proposal:* Senator mentions that about 30% of the faculty are on a 4/4 teaching schedule – are their schedules being considered? There are two NTT faculty on the taskforce and the survey does ask about your position and teaching load. Senator asks if there are options for hybrid classes to teach one hour online? This isn't part of the taskforce's remit – it would go through AAC. Senator mentions that this would be worth adding to the survey. Senator asks how flexible this would be for 4-credit classes – how would non-traditional blocks of time work? This hasn't been thought about. Senator raises concerns about student attention – worried that pedagogy isn't leading the taskforce. It is about faculty convenience. Losing face-to-face contact is concerning for students, especially in low-level courses, when this is key to retention and some kinds of pedagogy. Taskforce is thinking about some possibilities for more scheduling options. Senator mentions that having two days between classes could be hard as students won't remember material; could also create issues for performing faculty who need to take time to travel for shows. Concern is that we move from one mandated schedule to another mandated schedule – the solution needs to be flexible so that the change is being driven by pedagogy, not faculty convenience and then inconveniencing a different group of faculty. Senator mentions that the space issue seems to be problematically constraining – is the taskforce thinking about how different scheduling options would work with the space we have? The registrar's office is on the committee. Senator echoes that the space issue is important because the proposal might be used to push through increases in online courses/hybrid courses and other changes regarding parking, online teaching, or LE teaching that we would be otherwise opposed to. Senator mentions that number of LE courses will be increasing as small departments are under increasing pressure to develop LE courses and add to an already intense competition for space – the logistical question of space is fundamental to any proposed changes. Senate generally feels that the exploratory committee is a great idea, but the 50-minute block needs to be preserved as an option for some departments.

*Feedback for the survey:* When the survey asks people for scheduling preferences, it should give some examples, as faculty likely won't think of creative alternatives. Also, the question about what teaching schedule is beneficial to “you and your students” needs revision – what's beneficial to these two groups isn't the same, and neither is it for lower level and upper level students. The question needs to be rephrased to get at the nuances of this information.

### **10. Discussion of Double-Counting Courses with Valerie Fuentes**

Issue to is debate whether we should we keep the current rule that only allows overlap for two courses (in a double major) or one (in a major/minor). This is a college rule that the registrar's office would like to get rid of or amend so that more classes can overlap between programs of study:

*Discussion:* Senator ask how many students this negatively impacts? Not many, but it might be more as there are more minors being offered. Senator is wary of changing rules based on students not following rules. If there isn't a logistical block to students meeting these requirements, the problem seems to be with students, not the policy. Registrar's office responds that it is tricky for transfer students who have already used up a lot of gen ed courses to add in minors late in their career at UMB. Senator adds that this sounds like an advising issue rather than a policy issue. Changing majors or programs of study requires extra time; students should be better advised about what they can fit in with their remaining credits, and the policy should be better advertised. Senator wonders to what extent removing or changing the rule dilutes the value of the double program? Double-majoring or major-minoring is about developing extra expertise, so the rule does seem to have value as it requires students to take these extra courses. Senator asks if this can be a department rule, or does it have to be a college rule? Registrar responds that if we get rid of this rule, departments could set their own rules for overlap between programs. Senator responds that this would make this much easier for students and would seem more fair to them as they have done the work. Another senator worries that making it a department rule won't work because departments may start using other program's courses to boost enrollments in a program of study without having to offer classes. Senator expresses concern over students seeing regulations as negotiable. Precedent that this sets in worrying because it makes negotiating easier; students already do this a lot and see requirements as optional rather than necessary. Senator worries that removing the rule would create discrepancies between departments that could impact enrollments and hiring as students need less classes to complete a program of study. Senator suggests thinking about different rules for the major and the minor; keep the major the same but increase the amount of overlap for a minor (2 or 3 courses instead of 1). Senate remains relatively undecided about this and asks for more time to debate possibilities.

*Decision:* Issue is tabled and the Senate will return to it in the fall.

**11. Meeting adjourned: 4:05pm**