

## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** October 1, 2009

**PRESENT:** Dan Yazak  
Don Larsen  
Paul Bauer  
Lorrie Steerey  
Keith Edgerton  
Bruce Brumley  
Michael Barton (student)  
Diane Duin (ex-officio)  
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)  
D'Ann Campbell (ex-officio)  
Stacy Klippenstein (ex-officio)  
Kay Streeter (Budget Comm.)  
Liz Tooley (Budget Comm.)  
Michael Barber (Budget Comm.)  
Susan Stewart (Budget Comm.)  
Tammi Miller (Budget Comm.)

Jeff Sanders  
Sandie Rietz  
Rakesh Sah  
Craig McKenzie  
Mark Hardt  
Steve Coffman

Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)  
Karen Heikel (ex-officio)  
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)

Brian Reed (Budget Comm.)  
LeAnn Anderson (Budget Comm.)  
Jane Howell (Budget Comm.)  
Linda Wham (Budget Comm.)  
Ronald Sexton (Budget Comm.)

**ABSENT:** Gary Young (ex-officio)\*  
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)  
\* *excused*

John Cech (ex-officio)

**GUESTS:** Susan Gilbertz  
Two student observers

Stan Wiatr

**PRESIDING:** Lorrie Steerey, Chair

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Lorrie Steerey called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in McMullen 305.

The minutes of September 17 were accepted as presented.

## II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Sabbatical Committee Nominees

Sue Hart  
Judy McEnany  
Brian Dillon  
Patricia Vettel-Becker  
Lisa Kemmerer  
Sarah Keller  
Brian Cast  
Connie Landis  
James Nowlin  
Sue Balter-Reitz

⇒ Motion by Bruce Brumley, seconded by Dan Yazak to **forward this list to the Provost.**

⇒ Motion carried.

### B. CPSLL Course

Sandie Rietz stated that the CPSLL Curriculum Committee met to discuss the workshop course as well as establish the purpose of the Curriculum Committee. Some things are not appropriate for a Curriculum Committee to review, such as courses specially arranged with the community, which is the case in this situation. Part of the mission of the CPSLL is to develop courses. These courses may, in the future, become a certificate of some kind and the Curriculum Committee would review such a proposal.

The Senate agreed that no action on the course is needed at this time.

#### A. Environmental Studies Program

Guest: Susan Gilbertz, Assistant Professor

Jeff Sanders, Chair of Sociology, Political Science, Native American Studies, and Environmental Studies, noted that he met with Dean Tasneem Khaleel to discuss his concerns, such as the Environmental Studies major going away. Dean Khaleel assured him that the program will stay.

Dr. Gilbertz noted that she had heard she would be moving to Biological & Physical Sciences since she teaches the Geography courses, and this move would leave holes in the Environmental Studies curriculum. If those courses are taught by part-time faculty, then 90% of the program will be delivered by part-time faculty. It was stated that Dr. Gilbertz is not going to move to Biological & Physical Sciences.

Dr. Sanders cited that he has taken on some of the duties which Dr. Gilbertz performed as Program Director. However, Dr. Gilbertz is still advising all of the Environmental Studies majors—42 students this Fall. Essentially, she has taken a pay cut without a real decrease in duties. Dean Khaleel noted that with Environmental Studies in a department, other faculty advisors would be available. Dr. Gilbertz noted that the other faculty members are already busy and will not take on additional advisees. Dean Khaleel noted that NWCCU requested we move free-standing majors into departments, which is why Environmental Studies was moved into this department.

The community advisory board for Environmental Studies will continue to meet with Dr. Sanders. However, the interdisciplinary faculty group which made up the improvised “department” will no longer meet. It was cited that it is hard to keep an interdisciplinary program going if the faculty never come together. Dr. Gilbertz noted that she will meet the students as freshmen advisees and students will take the capstone course from her, but in between there may be no interaction. It was cited that it’s difficult to assess the students’ progress and the program if the students only interact with part-time faculty.

It was stated that there seems to be a large issue here that is not being discussed. Several Senators agreed to meet with Dr. Gilbertz before bringing this issue back to the Academic Senate.

It was noted that there are lessons here to be learned for future interdisciplinary programs.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m. to begin the Budget Committee meeting.

rjrm