

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
Minutes April 14, 2009
Oakland Center Rooms 128-130**

Members present: *Berven, D., Berven K., Cayanus, Clason, Dvir, Eis, Evans, Gooren, Grossman, Hansen, Kerrigan, Larocca, Levinson, Mabee, McGinnis, McDonald, Miller, Raman, Ostergaard, Purcell, Spagnuolo, Stoffan*

Members absent: *Bekele, Cole, Downing, Khain, Miller, Nixon, Stamps, Yu, Zingo*

Ex-Officio present: *Robby Stewart, Kathy Moore, Ron Sudol*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Dean Ron Sudol.

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2009, were approved as amended.

3. Proposal for M.A. in Communication

Susan Hawkins represented the English Department in apologizing for the delay of the proposal for an M.A. in Communication. Subsequently, the Assembly members voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

4. Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science

Ron Tracey from SBA and Theo Ogunyemi from the Math department were in attendance to present the proposal for a BS in Actuarial Science and to field questions. The BS in Actuarial Science will be a joint program between Math and SBA, and exempt from the BSA accrediting body because it is not a business program. Learning outcomes are consistent with objectives pertaining to the study of actuarial science. Ron Tracey distributed a handout entitled "Assurance of Student Learning." This handout summarized the learning objectives of the proposed new program.

Q/A:

Karen Miller (History) asked what is the potential number of majors, and what is the demand for this program? Tracey replied that the students were polled, and the results indicate that it will be a small program. The program requires the most difficult classes in math, economics and business, and only the best students would be qualified, and therefore it would be a very select group. The University of Michigan/Flint has an Actuarial Science program, and they have three students per year. Karen Miller asked if the program has an array of opportunities associated with it? Tracey and Ogunyemi affirmed that there are good employment opportunities for people with actuarial science degrees.

Jerry Grossman (Mathematics) observed that the Chief Academic Advisor is in the Math department. Formerly, they were able to put these courses together without an actual program, but now it will be better since it will be a degree program.

Keith Berven (Biology) remarked that there are courses in business, economics and math, but no courses called Actuarial Science. He wondered if this was typical. Tracey responded that there will be a Risk Management class. Berven asked who would teach it. Tracey replied that both he or Ogunyemi could teach it, but they could hire someone from the outside which is why they are offering the courses at night in the spring so that there is flexibility. Ogunyemi clarified that to become certified, the first two exams are probability based, and the third exam has an actuarial focus. Tracey indicated that between the Risk Management and Actuarial Science focus, the students should be able to do well on all, including the third exam. Ogunyemi said that twelve years ago, the Math department taught a graduate level course in mathematical statistics. Nine students enrolled in it and only one passed the course. Tracey observed that the exams for Actuarial Science have changed. Formerly one exam was in economics and one in math. But now, the emphasis is a meatier blend of math and business. These programs are usually housed in the Math Department.

Associate Dean Kathy Moore said that at an Admissions reception, three students asked about Actuarial Science programs at OU. Barbara Mabee asked how many universities in Michigan have Actuarial Science programs. Tracey replied that there are programs at Eastern, U of M Flint, Central, and University of Michigan. Most of these universities graduate between two and four students per year. It is a growth industry and very demanding. At OU, Tracey expects that there would be two or three students only, and they would be Math majors primarily.

Andrea Eis (Art and Art History) asked if internships would be helpful. Tracey said that they would, and after a couple of years they would start to offer internships. Eis asked if a coordinator or director would be needed, and Tracey said that the head advisor would be in Math because the program is very specialized.

Dean Sudol asked the Assembly if there was interest in waiving the second reading of this proposal since it was the last Assembly meeting of the academic year. Anna Spagnuolo (Mathematics) moved to waive the second reading. Susan Evans (Art and Art History) seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Update on CAS Distribution Requirement

Dean Sudol introduced Andrea Eis (Art and Art History) to give an update on what has been called the distribution requirement. Eis said that the proposal would affect many majors. The current proposal is to change it to an *intensive* requirement. It would involve three courses in one rubric, and would be depth-oriented. It is already a part of some programs and could lead to a minor or give another core of learning, but they are still working on how it will function.

Jerry Grossman (Mathematics) asked if a rubric can be in the same department, and outside the college. Eis said no. Arik Dvir (Biology) observed that it would be difficult for Biology majors to take any more credits than they are presently required to take. Associate Dean Kathy Moore said that in Biology, they would already be meeting the distribution requirement because of their chemistry courses. Eis said that the new proposal would actually involve fewer courses than the current requirement. Jerry Grossman said that with the new Gen Ed program, there were two new courses: Writing Intensive and one other course. Did the committee consider dropping distribution requirements altogether? Eis said yes, but the CAS has a deep belief in the notion of the liberal arts education. There should be not only a breadth of knowledge, but a depth. Students would gain better critical thinking skills with this requirement.

Fay Hansen asked whether different levels of courses would be required, and would this get complicated? Eis replied that the advisors had asked about this. The committee did not think that 100-level courses would be the best courses to use and had concluded that 200/300-level courses would be the most appropriate. Fay Hansen then asked if we could expect fewer students taking the introductory level courses as a result. Eis said no, they would take two more of these and could encourage more minors in departments. It seemed fair across the board, and she observed that at the present time, some departments are not represented in the distribution requirement. Now these departments would be included.

Keith Berven suggested that in Biology, two 100-level courses would satisfy this requirement: Life on Earth and Human Biology. Barbara Mabee said that it sounded like the Knowledge Application requirement in the Gen Ed program. Eis replied that it would be open, with no specific list of courses that had to be used from which to select courses.

Chris Clason (Modern Languages) asked what the new name would be of this requirement. Eis said it would be called the College Intensive Requirement. Dean Sudol said that the CAS COI will take the matter up. He thought the name College Intensive Requirement could be improved and asked for suggestions for other names that would be more student/user friendly.

6. College Updates

Dean Sudol said that there was no news.

Jerry Grossman said that something had come up concerning the fact that the university planned to change the way Web pages are handled. Lori Ostergaard (Writing and Rhetoric) said there needs to be a committee to look into the problem because it was serious. Chris Clason said that personal web pages have worked well and we should lobby to keep them. It is an easy way to get things up, whereas Moodle is a pain. Ostergaard agreed enthusiastically that the CAS should take a stand on this issue. Dean Sudol said that he would look for an opportunity to pass this information on.

7. Good and Welfare

Chris Clason had a question about the Spring/Summer schedule and creating a final study day. Dean Sudol indicated that Provost Moudgil is taking care of it.

Fay Hansen announced that Earth Day was coming up in a week, and said that Upland Hills is celebrating on campus.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven