

Faculty Senate – Academic Affairs Council

Meeting Notes

Thursday, November 16, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Note taker: Aaron Wood

Members attending: Jennifer Schieltz (chair), Yonghong Jia, John Cunnally, Cody Fleming, Aaron Wood, Karl Bolser, Tom Brumm, Terri Boylston, Anna Fantini, Jennifer Holliday (representing Student Government)

Absent: David Peters, Doug Smith, Ann Marie VanDerZanden

Others attending: Kim Moss, Jan Boyles, Kira Werstein, Elijah Stines

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes of 10/26 meeting – Brumm motion, Bolser 2nd. Approved
3. Old Business – None
4. New Business
 - a. Name change BA Scientific Illustration and Visualization (Kim Moss)

Brief discussion on the impetus of the name change, especially the attempt to reduce confusion about the nature of the program. Consultation with LAS and Design recruitment offices indicated students are familiar with “scientific illustration.” Adding “visualization” to the program name reflects future directions beyond illustration.

Approved 8-0-0.

- b. Proposed Policy: Grading as it impacts Repeating Courses (Terri Boylston)

Summary of rationale provided for policy updates, including how recent changes to the Transfer Deficiency Policy renders moot some aspects of the current policy. Please see rationale/justification provided with proposed policy. A more inclusive statement about impact on financial aid was added to recognize forms of aid other than federal.

Approved 8-0-0.

- c. BA Sports Media and Communication (Jan Boyles)

Brief discussion of student demand and successful voting record for proposal. Form A now requires consultation with the other Regents universities. They are still waiting on a response from the University of Northern Iowa. Brumm moved to hold vote with provision that FS Executive Board would not receive/consider proposal until UNI letter arrives. The motion was seconded.

Approved with provision 8-0-0.

d. Undergraduate Minor Applied Mathematic (Elijah Stines)

STEM majors earn several MATH credits relevant to their particular fields of study but rarely take MATH 201 Introduction to Proofs, a required course for the current Minor in Mathematics. The proposed Minor in Applied Mathematics would allow those students to earn a minor that better serves their academic and professional goals. A brief discussion followed about the demand for current STEM students.

Approved 8-0-0.

e. Master of Digital Health (Kira Werstein)

The online Master of Digital Health (MDH) Program will emphasize the use of digital tools and data analytics to enhance human health outcomes. Werstein described outreach to adjacent programs at ISU: Human Computer Interaction (HCI), Computer Science (CS), Athletic Training (AT), and Healthcare Analytics and Operations (MSHAO). Student and market demand for the program was discussed using results of Hanover Research report. Similar programs at the University of Denver and Imperial College London have on the order of 200 students enrolled. Concern was raised regarding lack of letters from University of Iowa and University of Northern Iowa. CHS Dean Jolly is in communication with counterparts at Iowa and Northern Iowa. Email exchanges may be sufficient for Form A. Questions asked about potentially hiring two new faculty to support the program. These new faculty, starting May 2024, would be tasked to work with CELT to generate online course content at the graduate level.

Approved 8-0-0.

f. Interdisciplinary programs (Jennifer Schieltz)

The AAC has been asked to draft language codifying the process for review, approval and governance of interdisciplinary programs to generate clarity for future proposals and streamline oversight. Transitioning more processes to Workday has created operational problems and need for greater transparency. Governance documents from the Applied AI Minor and Data Science provided as examples. Questions were asked about 1) where resulting governance documents will reside and 2) roles of “managing coordinators”. We decided to table the discussion until there is more input from Associate Provost VanDerZanden. Jennifer will pass around an updated document via email in lieu of another AAC meeting in the Fall 2023 semester.

5. Announcements

a. FS Curriculum Committee (Brumm) – No additional comments/announcements.

b. Academic Standards (Boylston) – Still working on policies related to dismissal/reinstatement policy and academic misconduct as related to drop courses.

c. Outcomes Assessment (Fantini) – No updates; the committee has been unable to meet

with Associate Deans.

- d. U.S. Diversity courses (Schieltz) – Committee recently reviewed four courses. One ISU course was approved as was one transfer course. Two other transfer courses were rejected.
- e. Student Government (Holliday) – A new academic affairs coordinator has been chosen will attend the next AAC meeting.

6. Good of the order - None

7. Adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Next Meeting: TBD – Spring semester 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Wood

Addendum: For item 4f above, Interdisciplinary Programs – Following a meeting on 11/29/2023 between Chair Jennifer Schieltz, Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Terri Boyleston, and Tom Brumm, Chair Schieltz emailed all council members an updated version of the “Proposed language on review, approval, and governance of Interdisciplinary programs” on 11/30/2023. She gave the council one week to review this new version and asked for any remaining feedback. Then on 12/8/2023 Chair Schieltz called for a vote by email to approve this language. The vote passed 10-0-0. On 12/15/2023 chair Schieltz communicated the results of this vote and feedback received to Ann Marie VanDerZanden. This new language will now be added to a document on the Provost’s website which outlines the path for curriculum approval.