

Academic Senate  
10/10/2023  
Cowan Hall # 310  
Meeting Minutes

**Membership:** Valerie Guyant, Trygve Magelssen, Mark Seiffert, Laura Gomez, Kasthuri Udayakumar, Joyce Mphande-Finn, Gary Succaw, Casey Donovan, Anna Bowker, Aaron Riffin

**Members Present:** Valerie Guyant, Mark Seiffert, Joyce Mphande-Finn, Casey Donovan, Laura Gomez, Gary Succaw, Anna Bowker, Kasthuri Udayakumar

**Guests:** Jennifer Brown

**Recorder:** Brittany Garden

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order by Valerie Guyant at 4:05 pm

**Minutes:**

- Minutes from 09/12/2023
- Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to approve the minutes
- The second was made by Laura Gomez with amendment
- Question
- Approved

**Agenda:**

- Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to approve the agenda
- The second was made by Casey Donovan
- Question
- Approved

**Chancellor/Provost Updates:**

- There were no recommendations by NWCCU for Program Assessment and Gen Ed Assessment.
- Moving forward, the Provost's office will be working on Academic Planning, to think about where we are with our academic programming and where we'd like to go in the future.
- NWCCU had four recommendations, which will be presented to the commission and then presented to MSU-Northern.
- NWCCU's commendations referred to our students and our service to our students.
- This year's NWCCU visit was positive and was reported as a positive experience for those involved.

### **External Committee Reports:**

- **NWCCU**
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- **SAT**
  - A motion to remove SAT reports from the agenda was made by Mark Seiffert.
  - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
  
- **UAC**
  - There are no updates at this time.

### **Senate Committee Reports:**

- **Admissions and Standards**
  - They will meet on Fridays at 4pm
- **Curriculum**
  - Have met once.
  - The proposal 23-1 was tabled and sent back to the faculty for minor changes.
  - Proposal 23-1 is a change to the BAS degree in Trades Management. Barbara was asked to add a sentence regarding the Gen Ed requirements to make it clearer for students and advisors. Students in the BAS will still be required to take the full 60 credits, regardless of the amount of Gen Eds they have from previous.
- **Financial Aid**
  - There are no new updates at this time.
- **General Education**
  - Three proposals have been sent to Gen Ed and should be sent to Academic Senate before the next meeting.
- **Graduate Council**
  - They have not met yet. There are no updates at this time.
  - Joyce will begin this process as the new Chair. They will meet hopefully in October.
- **Instruction, Research & Faculty Development & Cultural Programming**
  - There are no new updates at this time.
- **Library & Instructional Technology**
  - There are no new updates at this time.

### **Proposals:**

- 23-2; BMIS 2XX to be a CAT VII Gen Ed
  - The explanations meet 80% of the CAT VII requirements
  - Move to approve was made by Casey Donovan
  - The second was made by Joyce Mphande-Finn
  - Question
  - Approved
  
- 23-3; BMIS 2XX to be a CAT II Gen Ed
  - Based on the descriptions given, it is not explicitly stated how students will solve problems through mathematical reasoning (outcome 1 for CAT II)
  - The math faculty in the room discussed whether students will be expected to interpret the code rather than just run the code and make it work

- “Demonstrating the essential of mathematical reasonings by demonstrating their use in Python coding.”
  - Altering the existing language to something like this will make it clearer.
- The description for the second requirement doesn’t specify what the “several disciplines” are.
- Make slight changes to the language to make it clearer due to possible future audits
- A move to approve with emendations was made by Mark Seiffert
- The second was made by Gary Succaw
- Question
- Approved

**Old Business:**

- Academic Senate has been asked to nominate 5 individuals, making sure each college is represented with at least one and not more than two nominees.
  - Gary expressed a concern that the nominees should possibly be nominated through the colleges rather than Academic Senate. Concerns were addressed and it was decided Academic Senate would nominate representatives.
- Academic Senate will reach out to nominees before appointment.
- COHS will discuss whether a nominee from the college will work, due to low faculty numbers in the college (there are only four faculty members in COHS currently).
- Establish where we are now: three subcommittees – 1, inventory of courses and expertise of our faculty to propose new opportunities. 2, looking at data (labor market, course completion) to see where opportunities are for student demand, and 3, how do we know that we are successful? How are we assessing?
- Academic Senate will email their nominations to get them in before the next Academic Senate meeting in November.

**New Business:**

- There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

**Adjournment:**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Seiffert
- The second was made by Casey Donoven
- Question
- Approved

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Brittany Garden