

Draft

College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly
Tuesday, February 20, 2007
Oakland Room, Oakland Center

Minutes #5

Members present: Dikka Berven, Keith Berven, Jane Eberwein, Kevin Grimm, Jerrold Grossman, Debra McGinnis, Eric LaRock, Raymond Liedka, Karen Miller, Jude Nixon, Aldona Pobutsky, Mark Severson, Barry Turett, Vagner Whitehead, Susan Wood
Ex Officio present: Ron Sudol, Kathy Moore, Michelle Piskulich

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the meeting of the CAS Assembly meeting for January 23, 2007 were approved.

2. Proposal for a Major in Engineering Biology, Bachelor of Science Degree Program, *first reading:*

Arik Dvir (Chair, Biology) and Mark Severson (Chair, Chemistry) were available to field questions about the proposal. Dvir provided an update and indicated that the program proposal was presented for approval last year without sufficient input from the College. Since then it has been developed into a truly joint program with biology, engineering and computer science. Dvir believes it is the right time and the right place for this program. He said that there is already considerable student interest, and that it is a good collaborative effort that will have an impact on the work force. For the first few years it will require very little in the way of new resources or new courses. Susan Wood (Art and Art History) agreed that this program will be good for OU and the state of Michigan, as part of the high tech industry effort. She expressed concern that there are so many credits that the program looks more like two majors. She wondered whether it should possibly be a 5-year program. Dvir explained that they want to market it as a 4-year program and indicated that 130 credits is the norm for this kind of program. He pointed out that the program Steering Committee will review the program as it is implemented over the next few years.

Jerrold Grossman (Mathematics/Statistics) noted that this looks like a good program, but expressed concern about staffing needs, in particular the contribution to the program by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He said that to some extent, this is an add-on for the department, which would be providing resources without reaping any direct benefit. Dvir pointed out that some of the courses would be offered regardless of whether the program is implemented (in both math and chemistry), and suggested that it might actually lead to a new faculty position in math down the road.

Keith Berven (Biology) indicated that it would be in the best interest of the university to expedite the process so that the program could be implemented next year. *Berven*

moved to proceed to a second reading of the proposal. The motion was seconded by Mark Seversen.

Discussion continued with a question by Karen Miller (Chair, History) concerning whether courses need to be added to the Fall 2007 schedule if the program is implemented as early as next year. Dvir said that this would not be necessary, and furthermore, there is an advertising campaign ready to go, including flyers and radio message. *The motion to proceed to a second reading of the proposal passed unanimously.*

Discussion continued on the proposal. Michelle Piskulich (Associate Dean) pointed out that some of the second and third year budget could be used for part-time faculty members in math. Jerrold Grossman said that there are already too many part-time faculty members in math. Karen Miller asked whether the new program might shift the orientation of the biology department away from pre-med. Dvir responded that there is already a great interest in biophysics and bioengineering.

Kevin Grimm (English) asked whether this would be housed in the College, and subject to CAS distribution requirements. Kathleen Moore (Associate Dean) said that the head count would be split between the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences in the same way as the engineering chemistry and engineering physics programs are handled. The engineering biology major would not be subject to the CAS distribution requirements; this would be consistent with the way in which the engineering chemistry and engineering physics majors are handled. Copy describing the major and its requirements will be placed in the catalog copy for both the College and the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Acting Dean Sudol called the question, and the motion passed. Assembly approved the proposal after first reading. The second reading was waived. Acting Dean Sudol will present the proposal to UCUI and to Provost Virinder Moudgil who will distribute the proposal to the appropriate Senate committees for review.

Informational item: Pre- and Post-Master's Graduate Certificates in Music.

Kathleen Moore addressed the marketing issue of the Pre-Master's and Post-Master's Graduate Certificates in Music. She pointed out that teachers need to continue to take credits, so this type of certificate is useful to them. She requested that other departments consider the possibility of graduate certificates for post-baccalaureate students.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven