

All University Committee

Thursday, May 13, 2019

3:30 p.m.

Miller Oval

Committee Members in Attendance:

Cathy Canney, Laura Bayless, Joseph Wachtel, Michael Nosek, DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld, Charles Roberts, Sara Levine, Amy Wehe, Matthew Badagliacca, Alex Ramos, Peter Staab, Aisling O'Connor, Alberto Cardelle, Hailey O'Brien

Guests in Attendance:

John Paul, Carolyn Gustason, Sarah Wright, Jennifer Berg, Zak Lee, Frank Mabee, Lisa Gim, Heather Urbanski, Benjamin Railton, Benjamin Lieberman, Teresa Fava Thomas, Christine Dee, Joseph Cautela, Ozge Ozay, Karina Bautista, Petri Flint, Christopher Cratsley, Lynne Kellner, Emma Downs, Elizabeth Gordon, Chris Picone, Aruna Krishnamurthy, Robert Shapiro, Sean Goodlett, Pam McCafferty, Keith Williamson, Steven Fiedler,

Meeting was called to order by AUC Chair, Peter Staab at 2:34 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion: DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld Second: Matthew Badagliacca

AUC Meeting: April 25, 2019

Chair noted that he had sent Deresa a comment to add an additional guest that was not listed. She has entered the guest's name and the minutes are now updated.

Vote: 12/0/0

II. Continue Discussion on AUC #60

Sponsor: Chris Cratsley

Chair noted that we are continuing our discussion on AUC #60. We've already had two previous sessions and this is the third session of discussion.

Clarification of Proposal and Additional Supplemental Informational Forms

AUC Chair wanted to clarify to the committee and guests that the committee is voting today on the LAS proposal as presented on the proposal form. 1.) There is a curriculum that was developed, 2.) catalog changes, 3.) there are two forms that have been amended that went out in the last meeting on AUC #60, 4.) there are supplemental documents we will include but are not voting on.

The more detailed designation descriptions are not being voted on; those are supplemental and only used as additional information.

IHIPS

Committee member wanted the sponsor to clarify the last paragraph in the letter of support from President Lapidus that was sent out to the campus community on April 22, 2019.

The paragraph reads *"The second portion of the LA&S model encompasses high-impact practices (IHIPS). The administration has an existing commitment to HIPS with 70% of students currently involved in at least one HIP. There is an ongoing commitment to ensure that there will be resources available so that 100% of our students have the opportunity to complete a HIP during their time at Fitchburg State University"*.

Committee member assumes if 70% of students are already doing this than we are counting things like teacher practicum, nursing clinical, internships etc.

Sponsored said yes that those examples could be considered HIPS.

Committee member: Question about #2 under Integrating and Applying LA&S Learning section that notes that at least one LA&S course needs to be taken as prerequisite to HIP.

Sponsor: Clarified that the LAS course prerequisite applies to the advanced courses and not to the integrative learning courses.

Sponsor: We do have definitions laid out what the different categories of IHIPS are, we tried to define what those clearly are. (Internships example: Different departments if they choose to have it structured as such). Would love students to complete IHIPS in LA&S curriculum but they can complete it within their own majors if the major allows and seeks approval. A 12 credit internship counting for IHIP would only use a portion of those credits to fulfill this requirement. A minimum of 3 credits must be completed in the IHIP.

Question on Amendments

A guest asked the committee if AUC is allowed to put forth amendments. AUC Chair stated yes, the AUC committee would be able make amendments to the proposal.

Integrating and Applying LA&S - Writing Intensive Courses

Lengthy discussion on the intent of the specificity used to define "Writing Intensive Research Projects". Discussion around fulfillment of this through history courses and concerns the specifics were limiting to what should be considered writing intensive courses. Guest asked for an understanding of the rationale to make this particular one more specific than others.

Operational Steering Committee

Provost Cardelle: The intent of this group is to assist with the implementation phase. This committee will help with the operational logistics with representatives from the Registrar's Office, Transfers Office, academic departments and others. The idea was to allow departments to take time over the summer to jump start the process. They will not be for the curricular decisions but will help with the implementation; they are operational verses curricular. The idea is for them to work over the summer and to prepare information for departments to be ready to review in the fall.

Aruna Krishnamurthy stated this committee seems to have just department chairs and not faculty as part of the committee. If there are faculty that will be involved, it would need to go through the MSCA union. And believes this should be done within the academic year and not over the summer, when most faculty are not available. If faculty are asked to work over the summer, than they should receive a stipend. She suggested that they replace summer with academic year.

Sponsor: The role of the summer work was not meant to suggest that it would be completed over the summer. It was a form of institutional commitment so the work could be done and stipends offered for faculty to do it with the help of the administration. With it starting over the summer it gives them enough time and an extra jump on things, but it is not a requirement. It will need to go through the department curriculum committee in the fall and discuss within the departments.

The LA&S council cease to exist after this. That's the interpretation from the MSCA. There was a discussion with MSCA to discontinue and to monitor without an LA&S Council. It would help to have the Registrar's Office (Linda LeBlanc) and Transfers Office (Heather Thomas) involved. This is not a governance body, but rather an advisory body and we are not voting on it. Contractually advisory bodies are requested by the president and MSCA has to offer bodies to fill those slots.

Friendly Amendment:

Motion: Amy Wehe Second: Joseph Wachtel

LAS Program Requirements

A.) Change implementation year to fall 2021, **B.)** Remove the word "new" in the paragraph.

In the catalog description section of the proposal, sentence should now read *"The University has approved Liberal Arts and Science Program requirements which become effective for all entering students starting in fall 2021."*

The extra year will provide the extra necessary time for departmental and implementation work.

The Strategic Planning Committee can start in the fall, this will buy some more time for them.

Vote: 13/1/0

Friendly Amendment:

Motion: DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld Second: Michael Nosek

Writing Intensive Research Projects description:

Amend to read as follows, "Writing Intensive research projects that include multiple graded writing assignments including feedback with revisions, along with additional informal writing assignments and required library research sessions through which students locate, evaluate, summarize and apply resources related to their written work."

Vote: 14/0/0

Comments:

Teresa Fava Thomas: Concern that students will not understand the curriculum and will not be easy to explain to them. Feels the implementation is going to be long and difficult. It's a serious and complex change.

Heather Urbanski: Had feedback from students and they've said it is simpler for them to understand.

Hailey O'Brien: As a current student and looking at this, I think it's simpler. Half of the things in this proposal, we are doing already as students. It is not effecting current students and would only effect new students. Believe the IHIP would be a good thing for all majors. As a Political Science Major, had an internship option but not all majors do.

Joseph Cautela: A current student and member of LAS Council. He agrees it is a lot easier to understand. His concern is about the implementation process. Believes what the committee envisioned might be executed in a different way when it is implemented. Really concerned about the implementation.

Matthew Badagliacca: A current student. Agrees with Joseph on issue with the implementation. Disagrees that this is easy to understand; finds it will cause confusion with various departments and students.

Vote on AUC #60

Motion: Michael Nosek Second: Cathy Canney

Motion to call for a vote on AUC#60.

Vote by Ballot**Move to vote anonymously by written ballot on AUC #60**

Motion: Sara Levine Second: Joseph Wachtel

There are both junior faculty and students who will be voting on this; want them to be able to vote how they want to and not publically in front of an audience. Know the effects of group pressure and believe voting privately will enable members to vote without pressure.

Vote: 9/5/0

AUC Chair Peter Staab passed around the ballots and collected them. Joseph Wachtel witnessed and counted the ballots with Peter.

Peter wanted to make clear to the committee and guests that: A.) if yes out numbers the no votes, it will pass. B.) if no out numbers the yes votes, it will not pass C.) If it is a tie, it will need to go to the president.

Ballot Votes: 9/5/0 (Approved with friendly amendments)

III. Items From the Floor/ Comments:

- Sean Goodlett wanted to comment on the record. He noted his grave concern regarding the decision to vote by written ballot. Sends the wrong message to students, faculty, and the public. Feels this is a teaching moment and a failure of the university. The action conveys a certain lesson "ends might justify means". Noted that in his many years at the university has never witnessed governance taking private written ballots. Feels this really was a failure to be voted like this.
- Provost Cardelle wanted to thank the LAS council, AUC Committee, AUC Subcommittees, guests in the audience. Think this is what the definition of what an institution does, comes together and works as a team.

IV. Next AUC Meetings:

AUC Chair Peer Staab emailed out the agenda and materials to the campus community for tomorrow's meeting that will be held in Hammond 314 at 2:30 p.m.

V. Adjournment

Motion: Joseph Wachtel Second: Sara Levine

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Vote: 14/0/0