University of Nebraska at Kearney Faculty Senate  
Academic Affairs Committee MINUTES  
Meeting of Thursday, February 16, 2006  
3:30 PM Ockinga

Present: Blauwkamp Bridges, Frickel, Jackowiak, Lawson, Mitchell, Rowling, Schipporeit  
Absent: Albrecht, Lomicky, Montgomery  
Guests: Kruse, Terry

I. Review of minutes of January 19, 2006 – Minutes were approved via e-mail and have been distributed to Faculty Senate.

II. Old Business

Multimedia Proposal

Dr. Kruse highlighted the motion of Faculty Senate which was for the executive committee to bring #137, Alter, Program, B.S., Multimedia Major, COMM, FAH, to the academic affairs committee for possible reconsideration. Dr. Kruse further stated that there are reasons cited for possible reconsideration which include the following:
   a. The proposal went to the subcommittee without the chair’s signature but with the Dean’s signature and that might have been a red flag for the subcommittee.
   b. The proposal might be in violation of the new Bachelor of Science policy.
   c. Some faculty members desire to let the academic affairs committee know there was much discussion on this proposal and a lack of consensus within the FAH education policies committee regarding the proposal.

The committee thanked Dr. Kruse for the information from faculty senate and provided the following feedback:
   a. The Dean can sign the paperwork if the Chair chooses not to and if the Dean feels it will benefit students and curriculum. Not only had the Dean signed it, he attached a letter stating that there had been a lack of consensus at the educational policies committee. In addition, in the letter the Dean indicated he polled members of the committee and felt that the proposal needed to go forward after receiving those responses.
   b. The proposal actually corrects the multimedia major to be in compliance with the new policy for Bachelor of Science-related course requirements.
   c. The committee appreciates the concern of the faculty senate, but this proposal meets the criteria that the committee reviews for approval and the issues lay within the college.

Dr. Terry reiterated that there are three themes being debated within FAH regarding this proposal. His themes center on the issue of the new Bachelor of Science policy and its interpretation within the college. Dr. Terry requested a letter explaining the Bachelor of Science policy be sent to the FAH educational policies committee outlining the new B.S. policy. The Academic Affairs Committee agreed to do so and decided to send that same letter to all the college educational policies committees.

Schipporeit/ Bridges motioned that the academic affairs committee reconsidered the proposal and determined that it meets the new Bachelor of Science course requirement policy and reaffirm acceptance of #137, Alter, Program, B.S., Multimedia Major, COMM, FAH. The motion carried.

III. New Business

Motion to adopt items #211-216 was made by Lawson (Blauwkamp). The motion carried.

NUMBER, REQUEST, LEVEL, SPECIFIC REQUEST, DEGREE/COURSE, PROGRAM/COURSE TITLE, DEPT., COL, REASON
211. Alter, Course, Title, BMKT 331, Principles of Selling, BMKT/MIS, B&T, Change title from Principles of Selling to Professional Selling to reflect the trend in the market of selling and to reflect that it is a professional selling course instead of just a basic selling course and to reflect the importance of role-playing in the course. 2/5/06

212. Alter, Program, BS, Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management, Comprehensive Option, HPERLS, COE, These Biology courses, which are pre-requisites for other Biology course, have been changed in name and number. We are altering our program to come into line with the current Biology offerings. 2/5/06

213. Alter, Program, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, BIOL, NSS, The State has contracted with Iowa State University for Veterinary Medicine. Therefore, the requirements have changed. 2/8/06

214. Alter, Program, BSE, Chemistry 7-12 Teaching Endorsement, CHEM, NSS, BIOL 104 and 107 have been discontinued. After an evaluation of the BIOL 105 and 106 course descriptions, our department has determined that BIOL 105 may replace BIOL 104 and BIOL 106 may replace BIOL 107 in this program. 2/8/06

215. Alter, Program, BS, Chemistry Comprehensive, CHEM, NSS, BIOL 104 and 107 have been discontinued. After an evaluation of the BIOL 105 and 106 course descriptions, our department has determined that BIOL 105 may replace BIOL 104 and BIOL 106 may replace BIOL 107 in this program. 2/8/06

216. Alter, Program, Pre-Food Science Program, CHEM, NSS, BIOL 104 and 107 have been discontinued. After an evaluation of the BIOL 105 and 106 course descriptions, our department has determined that BIOL 105 may replace BIOL 104 and BIOL 106 may replace BIOL 107 in this program. 2/8/06

Policy Proposal

There has been a growth in the number of students participating in independent study abroad programs through entities other than UNK. Often students return expecting to gain academic credit for these experiences and are denied. The proposal is attached. This proposal will be discussed at the March Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

IV. Review of General Studies Council Minutes. There were no approved minutes to review.

V. Future Meetings

Next Subcommittee meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 2006 in Founders 2122.
Next Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 23, 2006(following Spring break) in the Ockinga Center.

VI Adjournment motion was made by Bridges/ Schipporeit. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Lynne Jackowiak
Secretary
TO: College-level academic affairs committees
FROM: Joan Blauwkamp, Academic Affairs Committee
RE: Implementation of the BS science-related course requirements policy
DATE: February 17, 2006

Based on our understanding that there has been some confusion in some of the college-level academic affairs committees about the Bachelor of Science science-related course requirements policy, passed by the Academic Affairs Committee on May 12, 2004 and approved by the Faculty Senate in Fall 2004, I have been charged, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, to provide some guidelines for implementation of this policy.

BACKGROUND
The Academic Affairs Committee initiated this policy to address three perceived problems. First, that the category for BS science-related course requirements provided BS degree programs with a potential loophole for unrestricted expansion of the number of hours required to complete the program. Second, that some BS degree programs were using the category to “off-load” courses from their own departments rather than for complementary coursework. And third, that some of the courses listed in the category were not science-related courses.

The policy we formulated was narrowly tailored to address these perceived problems. The policy places a cap (maximum) on the number of hours that a BS degree program may require in the category of science-related course requirements at 8 hours, with no minimum number of hours required. (We choose 8 to parallel the hours required in foreign language for Bachelor of Arts degree candidates – 8 hours is two lab courses as the BA requires two intermediate or two introductory-level foreign language courses.) The policy prohibits requiring under the category of science-related course requirements any courses that are offered by the department that houses the degree program. And the policy defines acceptable courses for the category as “courses in which students learn or apply the scientific method of conducting research or solving problems.”

We did not and do not regard this policy as weakening or “watering down” the academic rigor of Bachelor of Science degree programs. Most BS degree programs have never required additional coursework under this category, and the academic rigor of any program is determined by the expectations of students in their coursework and cannot be ascertained by merely counting the number of hours they are required to complete.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES
BS degree programs that currently list course requirements in this category which exceed the 8-hour maximum must alter their programs to reduce the hours in order to comply with the policy. As with any policy change Academic Affairs makes, compliance is grandfathered in; as BS degree programs propose other changes to their program requirements, their compliance with this policy will also be enforced.

Programs that currently exceed the 8-hour maximum may reduce the number of hours they require in this category to 8, to 0, or anywhere within the 0-8 range that they deem appropriate. No BS degree program will be required to add courses to this category. Any BS degree program may add to or reduce the number of hours they require in this category, at their discretion, as long as they
stay within the 0-8 hour range and the courses so listed: 1) meet the definition of “courses in which students learn or apply the scientific method of conducting research or solving problems”; and 2) are offered outside of the department that houses the degree program.

Typically, the definition of “courses in which students learn or apply the scientific method of conducting research or solving problems” applies to courses in math, statistics, and/or science (natural or social). Other courses MAY be permissible as requirements listed in this category, but a proposal to require such courses in the science-related course requirements category must contain documentation that explains how the proposed course/s teach students the scientific method of conducting research or solving problems. The college-level and university Academic Affairs committees can judge the persuasiveness of the explanation in deciding whether or not to approve the proposal.

Specific questions about how to implement the policy may be directed to any member of the Academic Affairs Committee. In particular, James Rowling, Debbie Bridges, and I were all members of the Committee when the policy was implemented and have the greatest familiarity with the policy language and the Committee’s intentions in enacting it.
Policy for Students Seeking Credit for Independent Travel/Study Abroad

Students interested in international travel with the intent of obtaining academic credit for their experience should first be directed to the Study Abroad Office to explore options available through UNK affiliated programs.

If the student chooses not to participate in an affiliated program, then he/she should be directed to the Registrar’s Office where other credit options will be determined according to the following:

**Enrollment at a Foreign University:**
Students who plan to enroll at a foreign college or university must have approval to do so from the appropriate department, prior to leaving in order for their credits to be transferred to their UNK degree program. The Registrar’s Office will coordinate transfer credit with the student’s major department. The amount of credit will be based on the nature of the institution, the length of study and the applicability to a UNK degree.

**Enrollment in a Language Center affiliated with a recognized university:**
Students who wish to study a foreign language at a language center affiliated with a recognized university must have their program and the number of anticipated credits approved by the Department of Modern Languages and confirmed by the Registrar’s Office prior to departure. Typically, credit will be given as “Study Abroad credit,” depending on the students’ level. Students can receive a maximum of six hours of study abroad credit for a 4-5 week program with a minimum of 80-90 contact hours. Additional credit will only be awarded for coursework on the advanced level.

**Enrollment in a private Language Center not affiliated with a recognized university:**
Students who wish to study a foreign language at a language center or participate in an immersion program NOT affiliated with a recognized university in that country must have their program approved by the Department of Modern Languages prior to departure and register at UNK for Study Abroad credit at the rate of one credit hour per week, not to exceed 6 credits.

**International Travel:**
Students who travel abroad but who do not enroll in any directed study programs should not expect to receive academic credit for their experience. If the student wishes to receive credit, he/she must work with a UNK faculty member, register for a UNK class and complete the necessary coursework assigned.

Any questions on these options should be directed to the Registrar’s Office.