

Academic Affairs Committee Minutes
April 2, 2018
3:00 – 4:00pm; Thomas Room

Present: Sarah Cook, Anne Fredrickson, Jason Jolicoeur, Sungkyu Kwak, Tom Prasch, Sean Stacey, Melanie Worsley, Nancy Tate (ex officio)

Guests: Monica Scheibmeir, Steve Grenus

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.
2. The minutes from the March 12, 2018, meeting was approved with corrections and will be forwarded to Faculty Senate.
3. Alan Bearman provided the annual update on the STAR Program, with a handout. The Center for Student Success and Retention (CSSR) feels the program is working as intended, particularly with students who really invest themselves into the program, though there is concern about the ability of only one staff member being able to maintain effectiveness. Committee members inquired about data on students who achieve good standing through STAR remaining in good standing. Since the program is only three years old, it's too soon to obtain reliable data; that will be investigated in about two years. Committee members also questioned the decline in GPA on pages 7-8 of the handout. CSSR believes that reflects increased demand/more students while simultaneously reaching the single staff member's capacity to effectively serve students. While EAB's Student Success Collaborative will help with data collection and analysis, CSSR needs to achieve a balance between serving high risk students and students in the "murky middle." STAR Program annual reports will continue to be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee until Spring 2020, as specified in the original 5 year plan, at which time it can transition to the Program Review Committee.
4. Action Items:
 - a. BSCJ Degree Name Change
 - i. The agenda item was introduced by Chair Worsley.
 - ii. A motion and second were made to discuss the agenda item.
 - iii. Chair Worsley explained that the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice is not, and has not been, equivalent to a Bachelor of Science. The name change is to emphasize/clarify the degree is a specialization and not focused on science.
 - iv. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda item. The committee approved and the item will be forwarded to Faculty Senate.
 - b. BSN Degree Change
 - i. The agenda item was introduced by Chair Worsley.
 - ii. A motion and second were made to discuss the agenda item.
 - iii. Monica Scheibmeir explained that, historically, Washburn's School of Nursing (as well as other programs in the state) misinterpreted the Kansas State Board of Nursing's regulations on development and growth curriculum. The state board has confirmed that the regulation does not require a non-nursing course. Consequently, in consultation with Human Services, SON has removed the duplicate Human Services course from the BSN. In addition, the credit hours for a nursing course was reduced from 3 to 2 and now only one social science general education course is

assigned, rather than three, so that students have flexibility in completing the other six credit hours (the total number of credit hours in social science did not change).

- iv. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda item. The committee approved and the item will be forwarded to Faculty Senate.

5. Information Items

- a. Degree Program Changes: Some Committee members expressed concern that since many programs are reducing required general education credit hours to the University minimum, there will be less incentive for creation of new courses. Other members believe that upper division general education courses are still, and will continue to be, in high demand which will promote the creation of new courses. Though the total number of required general education credit hours is being reduced, most programs are not reducing the total number of non-major hours; this allows students more flexibility in completing their degrees while supporting credit hour production in other departments.
- b. CE Course Prefix: The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee approved the course prefix of CE for Community Engagement in the Poverty Studies minor. There is a trend among interdisciplinary programs to create an identity in order to help students identify program courses, as well as better market themselves using their transcripts.

6. Tabled Item:

- a. Change in General Education Requirements in Response to Concurrent Enrollment Partnership
 - i. A motion and second were made to discuss taking the item off the table.
 - ii. Discussion occurred on catalog placement of General Education and University requirements (before the academic units, implying overarching authority) and precedent (changing the limit of 6 credit hours to 8 credit hours to accommodate 4 credit hour courses). The 2017-2018 catalog language for University requirements common to all bachelor degrees speaks only to the minimum number of general education credits required. The 2017-2018 catalog language for General Education requirements for specific bachelor and associate degrees either states a maximum number of credits or refers the student to seek guidance from the department. Maximum numbers of credits also appear in each academic unit's catalog section. The changing of limits from 6 credit hours to 8 was done at the academic unit, and not university, level.
 - iii. A motion was made and seconded to vote to take the item off the table. The committee voted; 4 approved and 2 opposed. The item did not come off the table.

- 7. A motion and second were made to adjourn the meeting; the committee approved and adjourned at 4:06 pm.