

Volume XXXVI, Number 7
Minutes of the Academic Council Meeting
April 20, 2006

I. Call to Order, Roll, and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 13.30 by President Schwartz and roll was taken.

Absentees noted: Balakrishnan, Book, Crow, Lea, Mullin, Nystrom, Tsai.

Substitutions noted: Shah for Carney, Gragg for Fogg, Myers for Luna.

The minutes of the January 23, 2006 minutes were **amended** to indicate Belarbi as present.

The meeting minutes of February 23, 2006, and March 9, 2006 (special meeting) were **approved** as submitted.

II. Reports and Responses

A. President (R. Schwartz) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

An updated copy of the President's report is on line via the AC web page. Administrative review, non-tenure track faculty and the Bearden bill (capping tuition) are major topics for Interfaculty Council (IFC) review. At their recent meeting, the Curators increased tuition for next year by 5% along with the addition of supplementary fees. The AC hosted breakfast for the Curators was well received by them.

B. Chancellor (Y. T. Shaw for J. Carney III)

There were 21 tenure/promotion cases approved by the Provost and Chancellor with 5 denied. Sales related to the assets of MOHELA are on track to provide partial funding for the Mechanical Engineering Building. The UM System is now reviewing non-tenure track faculty appointments, with special emphasis on teaching faculty.

C. Provost (Y. T. Shah) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

Enrollment is looking good with 900-1000 new students planned for next year. This creates some issues about how to handle these numbers that the cabinet is working on. Research funding is now 10% ahead of last year because of some delay in plus-up funding. Proposal submissions are down over last year. An undergraduate research meeting was held and outstanding advisors named. OURE is currently oversubscribed relative to funding. The honors academy is going well as is extended learning. The new technology classroom is being actively used.

There were some questions and discussion on the nature of the non-tenure track appointments.

II. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

A. Curricula (K. Nisbett) (Re: written reports w/Agenda)

(i) 9 Degree Change (DC) forms were **approved** as submitted with two DC forms, DC184 and DC184 (Interdisciplinary Engineering graduate degrees), **approved contingent on** approval by the Graduate Faculty (i.e. if Graduate Faculty approves, then AC approves). Budgetary affairs supported approval of the new graduate degrees.

(ii) 35 Course Change (CC) forms were **approved** as submitted.

(iii) 25 Experimental Course (EC) forms were **noted** by Council.

B. Academic Freedom and Standards (W. L. Haynes) (Re: Written report w/Agenda)

Motion 1 (V. **Absences**, see Appendix 1A for Committee Motion) was made by the Committee. An amendment to drop the proposed section B (Instructor Drop Provision, see Appendix 1B) was made, and seconded, but **failed** by show of hands. AC **voted to accept Motion 1** by voice vote.

Motion 2 (IX. A. **Students Dropped by Instructors**, See Appendix 2A for Committee Motion) was made by the Committee and the motion **failed** by voice vote.

A quorum call was made with the following result.

Present: (25) Haynes, Huang, Blum, Wilkerson, Gragg (for Fogg), Bohner, Samaranayake, Schulz, Martin, Park, Hall, Dunn-Norman, Smith, Schwartz, Worsey, Acar, Kosbar, Hubing, Myers, Stone, Isaac, Shah, Lutz, Mitchell, Dekock.

Absent: (19) Hines, Herdade, Woelk, Cheng, Cotterill, Mullin, Hale, Lea, Atekwana, Book, Fitch, Myers (for Luna), Belarbi, Nystrom, Balakrishnan, Tsai, Carney, Crow, Robinson.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:08 for lack of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank D. Blum, Secretary, Academic Council

- * Minutes of the Academic Council are considered official notification and documentation of actions approved. [*Note: Approved by AC: x.xx.xx.*]

The following agenda items were not addressed at the meeting before adjournment.

II. Reports of Standing and Special Committees (con't)

C. Student Affairs (S. Fitch) (Re: Written reports w/Agenda)

1. Revocation of Recognition for Inactive Student Groups
2. UMR Baja SAE Constitution
3. Table Tennis Constitution
4. Yoga Fitness Club Constitution

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business and Announcements

- A. Staff Council (L.A. Morton)**
- B. Student Council (N. Mundis)**
- C. Council of Graduate Students (P. Shil)**

V. Referrals

Referral	Referred to	Status (C-Completed, IP – In Progress)
Review of the Instructor Drop Policy	Academic Freedom/Standards	IP – Report to AC (4/20/06)
Higher Learning Commission Accreditation	Ad Hoc Committee	IP - Committee meeting weekly. Several members attended Higher Learning Commission workshop in Chicago (4/1/06)
Faculty/Staff Headcounts and Demographics	Budgetary Affairs	IP
Mid-Semester Assessment	Personnel	C - Report to AC (2/23/06)
Salary Survey	Personnel	C - Report to AC (2/23/06)
Use of End-of-Semester Evaluations	Personnel	IP
Non-Tenure Track Faculty Report from IFC	Personnel	IP - to review document and guidelines prepared by IFC at http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/aa/faculty/nontenure.shtml
Career Fair Day	Public Occasions	IP - Committee asked to consider Student Council resolution that exams not be scheduled on Career Fair day
Gaming	Student Affairs	In progress - Report in April
Voting Rights of Faculty in Non-Primary Departments	Tenure	C - Report to AC (2/23/06)
Role of Economic Development in the Promotion and Tenure Process	Tenure	C - Report to AC (2/23/06)
Composition of the Campus P&T committee	Tenure	IP

VII. Actionable Items

Action	Administrative Action	Implementation
AC Officers meet with Chancellor on a Regular Basis (RP&A - 11/10/05)	Approved	Ongoing (monthly meetings)
AC President - Report at General Faculty Meetings (RP&A - Fall 05)	Approved	Fall 05 General Faculty Meeting and Ongoing
Voting (Non-Primary Department Members) on T&P (AC 2/23/06)	Sent to Provost (4/20/06)	Pending
Poll Faculty on Administrative Restructuring (AC 3/9/06)	None required	Completed (RP&A) - Results reported/comments to Chancellor (3/06)
Revision of Student Academic Regulations- V. Absences (AC 4/20/06)	To be sent to Provost	Pending

Appendix 1A

Motion I. That the following changes be made to the Student Academic Regulations:

([deleted material] new material added)

V. Absences

A. [Students are expected to attend class regularly. If a student has been absent from several consecutive class meetings, the instructor may report this matter to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs so that an investigation may be made to ascertain the reason for such absences.]

Administration of attendance policy lies with the individual instructor for each course. The individual instructor determines the number and nature of unexcused absences allowable in each course. Sanctions may be imposed for excessive absences up to and including dismissal from the course. If the instructor intends to attach a formal sanction (grade reduction or dismissal from the course) to inadequate attendance, he/she must include in the course syllabus the specific expectations and steps to be taken in such cases. Such steps will include an academic alert initiated in time to provide due warning before the absence which will give rise to the drop.

B. [If the student, in the opinion of the instructor in charge of the class, has missed an amount of work sufficient to seriously impair his/her knowledge of the subject concerned,]

If the student accrues sufficient absences to warrant dismissal in accordance with the course syllabus,

he/she will be dropped from that class by the Office of the Registrar at the written request of the instructor. No grade will be recorded if this action takes place prior to the end of six weeks (three weeks during an eight-week summer session). During the period after six (6) weeks of a semester and prior to three (3) weeks before the end of classes, a withdrawal will be recorded on the transcript if the instructor drops the student from the course. The instructor may not effect a withdrawal from the course during the last three (3) weeks of classes or during Final Examination Week.

C. Any work missed for any reason must be made up to the satisfaction of the instructor concerned.

D. Each department and school may adopt absence regulations in addition to those of the individual instructor. [that apply to the entire school.] These regulations should be either posted on department bulletin boards or [announced to each class] incorporated as part of each course syllabus.

Appendix 1B Amendment

Amendment to Motion 1: Delete the instructor drop for absences by deleting Student Academic Regulations V. Absences part B. and not change the existing parts A, C and D other than to renumber as appropriate.

V. Absences

A. Students are expected to attend class regularly. If a student has been absent from several consecutive class meetings, the instructor may report this matter to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs so that an investigation may be made to ascertain the reason for such absences.

B. Any work missed for any reason must be made up to the satisfaction of the instructor concerned.

C. Each department may adopt absence regulations in addition to those that apply to the entire school. These regulations should be either posted on department bulletin boards or announced to each class.

Appendix 2A

Motion 2: That the following changes be made to the Student Academic Regulations:

IX. A. Students Dropped by Instructors. A student may be dropped from a course by the instructor because of excessive absences or unsatisfactory work.

However, in the case of unsatisfactory work, the instructor must specify, in the course syllabus, the specific expectations and steps to be taken in the case of such action; the steps must include initiation of an Academic Alert at least two weeks prior to the drop. Additionally, the student must have a failing grade in the course at the time of the drop.

No transcript record will be made if the student is dropped during the first six weeks of a semester (three weeks of an eight-week summer session). If the student is dropped after six weeks of a semester (three weeks of an eight-week summer session), a withdrawal will be recorded on his/her transcript. The instructor may not effect a withdrawal from the course during the last three (3) weeks of classes or during Final Examination Week.

A student who is dropped from a course for excessive absences or unsatisfactory work may appeal to the Department Chair of the course in question and request reversal of the decision.