

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2004
GOSN 111, 3:00 p.m.

Senators Present: Virginia Purtle, Quentin Kidd, Kelly Cartwright, Cathy Doyle, Harold Grau, Tracey Schwarze, Gary Whiting, Robert Winder, Rebecca Wheeler, Don Hicks, Bob Gray, Peter Knipp, Dave Doughty, Lori Underwood

Visitors: Scott Pollard (English Dept. Chair) and Tim Marshall (Psychology Dept. Chair and Past Senate President)

The meeting was called to order by President Purtle at 3:00 p.m.

- I. Minutes of the February 20, 2004 meeting were approved by voice vote with one correction.
- II. New Business
 - a. English Department Proposals – two new course proposals from the English Department had been previously approved by all other university committees, but had mistakenly by-passed the Senate.

Scott Pollard, Chair of the English Department, explained the new course proposals to the Senate, and discussed the impact of their inclusion into the General Education curriculum. Essentially, the two new courses, one a freshman level argument and analysis course and the second a sophomore level research course, better reflect the abilities of our students'. These courses will better fit our student's educational needs in that they come to CNU with the basic writing skills but need better critical writing and thinking practice.

A motion was moved by Senator Schwarze and seconded by Senator Wheeler.

Q & A between Pollard and senators.

The gist of the concerns centered on whether moving the second English course from freshman to sophomore level would disrupt curriculum that had a writing intensive course at the sophomore level, since the two English

courses are pre-requisites for the WI courses. This appears to be a problem with the biology curriculum, and might very well be a problem for other departmental curriculum as well.

Senator Doughty proposes a rider to the English Department proposals that would give a two-year exemption on pre-requisites to Writing Intensive courses in order to give departments time to adjust their curriculum.

"Through Spring 2006, either English 101 & 102 or English 123 will serve as pre-requisites for all Writing Intensive courses."

Senator Doughty's motion seconded by Senator Wheeler. The rider passed by voice vote.

A motion was made to accept the English Department proposals and carried by vote of 13 Yes, 2 No (Grau & Whiting), and 1 Abstain (Winder).

- b. Physics Department Proposals – A new two course sequence in physics, with accompanying lab, and a new physics lab for non-science students had been previously approved by all other university committees, but had mistakenly by-passed the Senate.

Senators Knipp and Doughty, explained the new course proposals to the Senate, and discussed the impact of their inclusion into the General Education curriculum.

Essentially, the new courses and labs are designed to better allow the department of Physics, Computer Science and Engineering to steer students into the appropriate level of physics. With this change, there will be three sets of physics course available, one for non-science majors, one for science majors but not physics, computer engineering, or math majors, and one for physics, computer science, or math majors. This pattern is consistent with physics, computer engineering, or math offerings at universities around around the country.

A motion was made by Senator Knipp to accept the proposals and seconded by Senator Kidd. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Other Items

- a. Senator Doughty updated the Senate on the status of the committee he is chairing looking at issues surrounding CNU's national rankings. He asked for and received Senate permission to talk to President Tribble about his findings to date. He indicated that a full report would be issued by the end of the semester.

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.