

University Senate

April 8, 2015

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 84

Call to Order

Senate Chair Webster called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Webster asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Committee Volunteer Period

Webster explained that the volunteer period for Senate standing committees had recently opened. He encouraged senators to reach out to the campus community about participating in shared governance and encourage volunteers to serve on a committee by going to the website: www.senate.umd.edu. He especially encouraged faculty to volunteer and engage their colleagues as well. The deadline to volunteer is April 30, 2015.

Remaining Senate Meetings

Webster reminded Senators that the April 23, 2015 Senate Meeting would be the last business meeting of the semester for outgoing Senators. The May 6, 2015 transition meeting will be for continuing and incoming senators. Willie Brown will take over as Senate Chair, and the Senate will vote for its next chair-elect and elect committees/councils at the meeting. The names of candidates running for the various committees and their candidacy statements will be distributed to incoming and continuing senators on April 16, 2015.

Committee Reports

PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Information Science (Senate Doc. No. 14-15-25) (Action)

Gregory Miller, Chair of the Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee, presented the PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Information Science and provided background information.

Webster opened the floor to discussion of the proposal.

Senator Sussman, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical & Natural Sciences, raised concerns about the proposal because of its overlap with existing computer science courses.

Susan Winter, Chair of Undergraduate Committee, College of Information Studies, responded that there is one programming course as a prerequisite to provide the foundation. There is also an object-oriented programming course that would be delivered by the College. A principal motivation for a separate course was not to overburden computer science with non-majors by having too many pre-requisites.

Senator Sussman also inquired about the specialization in data science. He noted that the Computer Science Department had recently approved a data science proposal in its program as well and questioned whether there would be a conflict between the two in the future.

Dean Preece, College of Information Studies, explained that data science is very topical and common over multiple disciplines including information studies, computer science, and business. She stated that there are variations in how each discipline may choose to teach the specialization. Information studies focuses on application oriented approaches not the technical or business oriented aspects. This topic is one that can be taught from a number of perspectives.

Senator Kedem, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, inquired about what kind of statistics, data analysis or data size would be involved in the new program. Will established courses in mathematics be used or will new courses be required to be developed?

Susan Winter, Chair of Undergraduate Committee, College of Information Studies, responded that the proposal addresses the issue in two ways. The other prerequisite for the program is a STAT100 Introduction to Statistics. Information studies majors would also take statistics for information scientists. Students will look at the nature of data where it comes from, as well as how to understand the classification system and information retrieval to understand what the data set looks like. This will help students comprehend what a data analytics project will look like so it can be connected to decisions that will help the decision makers. The introductory class will build on simple statistics while advanced courses will go into visualization to be able to do mash-ups to see geographic and visualization patterns for such things as the distribution of migratory birds on a map over time or the spread of disease such as Ebola. There will also be data mining for simple cluster analysis and machine learning applications. The assumption is that undergraduates will not be statisticians but will have access to people who have a statistical background to help guide them through more complex problems.

Senator Blair, part-time graduate student representative, inquired about the overlap between the current masters programs and the proposed undergraduate program.

Dean Preece, College of Information Studies, stated that master's degrees within the college are in library science, information management, and human computer interaction. The undergraduate program would be a feeder program into all three of these graduate-level programs. The fundamentals provided in the undergraduate program will provide a steady foundation for the masters programs but especially into the masters of information management program.

Senator Blair further inquired as to what extent the new program will be more specialized than other bachelor's programs in the University.

Dean Preece, College of Information Studies, responded that the course would be run at an undergraduate level. She stated that the college looked at other comparable programs in the country and did comparative analysis on them.

Senator Kaplan, faculty, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, stated that the proposal sounds reasonable and recognized the high demand. However, he inquired about the whether there would be an aggregate increase in revenue or a redistribution across departments.

Elizabeth Beise, PCC Committee Member, responded that the reason for starting at Shady Grove is to provide a new revenue stream. This will also give us an opportunity to seek additional funds through an omnibus request to the State for programs at Shady Grove because of the new building under construction there. If the program was offered on campus, it would likely cause a shift from other majors like computer science, which is vastly over enrolled. The long-term implications are difficult to understand at this time.

Senator Boyle, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, raised concerns that the new program does not seem to indicate an increase in revenue. He stated that there appears to be breadth but no depth in the program. He also raised concerns that the level of mathematics courses in the program would not actually lead to an understanding of advanced mathematics as the proposal suggests.

Elizabeth Beise, PCC Committee Member, responded that, for this particular program, we will need to identify new resources, and we will have an opportunity to do that because of it being started in Shady Grove.

Dean Preece, College of Information Studies, said that they are an applied college so they are not competing with computer science, statistics, or math. They are not teaching the fundamentals of computer science but rather looking at

how different techniques can be applied when computing and other technologies are used in the world of information.

Senator Ledlum, graduate student, College of Information Studies, stated that if this major existed at the undergraduate level, he might have taken it since faculty are very knowledgeable in the subject area. The program would be a great addition to the college and provide students with different opportunities from those currently offered. STEM related programs are very beneficial and will bring in a new group of students in addition to those who move from other programs.

Senator Khattak, undergraduate student, Robert H. Smith School of Business, stated that, at Shady Grove students transfer in as juniors so the prerequisites are already taken care of. He further noted that the proposed program was great and that he supported it.

Hearing no further discussion, Webster called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 48 in favor, 18 opposed, and 8 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

**PCC Proposal to Rename the Bachelor of Science in Operations
Management to Operations Management and Business Analytics (Senate
Doc. No. 14-15-30) (Action)**

Gregory Miller, Chair of the Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee, presented the PCC Proposal to Rename the Bachelor of Science in Operations Management to Operations Management and Business Analytics and provided background information.

Webster opened the floor to discussion of the proposal.

Senator Khattak, undergraduate student, Robert H. Smith School of Business, inquired whether the curriculum would change, as well as the name.

Frank Alt, Chair of the Undergraduate Program, Robert H. Smith School of Business, said that a curriculum change would be submitted as a separate proposal and gave a brief overview of the revisions to the curriculum.

Senator Khattak also inquired whether the School would create a specialization instead of changing the name and curriculum of the major.

Alt responded that a specialization would not accurately reflect the nature of the group and they would like to keep the fundamentals of operations management within the program.

Dean Preece, College of Information Studies, stated that her college originally raised concerns about this program but is now fully supportive of different disciplines taking different approaches to teaching similar topics.

Senator Kedem, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical & Natural Sciences, stated that there are many new programs that overlap existing ones. He inquired who would teach the new courses and whether existing faculty would be used or new faculty and resources be required.

Alt responded that the programs overlap with existing courses in statistics. He provided information on the differences in how data analytics is taught in his school and stated that there is a need for graduates in this field.

Senator Ledlum, graduate student, College of Information Studies, said that these proposals provide an opportunity to work cross-functionally and that some of these problems can be resolved by working together. It does not take away from other programs but rather adds to them. He noted the importance of the name in the context of searching for positions.

Hearing no further discussion, Webster called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 74 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

Revisions to the Senate Bylaws (Senate Doc. No. 14-15-20) (Action)

Charles Wellford, Chair of the Plan of Organization Review Committee, presented the Revisions to the Senate Bylaws and provided background information on the committee's work related to its review of the University of Maryland Plan of Organization for Shared Governance.

Senator McKinney, full-time instructor representative, stated that with the adoption of the new Plan of Organization, his position as a representative of a single-member constituency would be eliminated and transferred into the new definition of faculty. He inquired when the professional-track faculty would be put into place.

Wellford responded that once the Bylaws are approved, the Elections, Representation, and Governance Committee would implement the changes in time for the next election cycle.

Webster clarified that the new apportionments would apply to those elected to serve in 2016-2017.

Senator Blair, part-time graduate student representative, raised questions about the transition period when senators change status during mid-term and need to be replaced.

Wellford noted the competence of the senate staff and stated that he was confident that they would move quickly to identify a replacement and get them in place to provide representation.

Webster clarified that this is already the process that the senate staff use and, in his experience, works efficiently.

Hearing no further discussion, Webster called for a vote on the proposal, announcing that it required a 2/3rd affirmative vote for approval. The result was 70 in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed by the required 2/3rd majority.**

Review of Mid-Semester and Early Warning Grades Policies and Procedures (Senate Doc. No. 14-15-10) (Action)

Charles Delwiche, Chair of the Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee presented the committee report on the Review of Mid-Semester and Early Warning Grades Policies and Procedures and provided background information.

Webster opened the floor to discussion of the proposal.

Senator Cohen, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, asked whether this would apply to all students in 100 and 200-level courses.

Delwiche noted that that is current practice.

Senator Harris, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, stated that the proposal is good and that feedback is important but inquired whether the lack of widespread use of early warning grades was a cultural problem where current trends will continue regardless of an official policy?

Delwiche noted that it is more of a cultural problem, so we need buy-in from instructors. We need to educate instructors on the importance of keeping students informed and have deans and chairs communicate that importance as well.

Senator Moser Jones, faculty, School of Public Health, asked for clarification between mid-term grades and early warning grades. She noted that she currently submits early warning grades for athletes and transfer students.

Delwiche clarified that this is mostly the same thing, but for athletes there are additional reporting requirements.

Senator Moser Jones inquired whether it would be possible for people to give early warning grades outside of these specifications.

Delwiche noted that some institutions allow for more flexible grading notifications at any point in the semester. He noted the importance of providing feedback to students at any level.

Senator Moser Jones stated that she was in favor of proposal and agreed that mid-term grades are an opportunity for meaningful intervention. She noted that she would like committee to expand the options to deliver this feedback in the future.

Senator Hurtt, faculty, School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, inquired when it was not appropriate to use mid-term grades. He noted that the 8-week mark that is suggested could intrude on how a faculty member could set up course work.

Delwiche responded that architecture is a great example of a field where mid-term grades might not be appropriate. He also noted that the authority for the decision on whether a mid-term grad is appropriate lies with the unit head or, potentially, the program director. He stated that the committee was hesitant to ask faculty to do more which is why the course is limited to beginning level courses. They are merely asking to codify existing practice into official university policy.

Senator Khattak, undergraduate student, Robert H. Smith School of Business, inquired whether there is a cost associated with making changes to the faculty handbook.

Delwiche noted that there was no associated cost because the handbook is not in printed copy but provided online and provided with regular revisions.

Senator Khattak asked whether the change could result in an additional mid-term exam for courses that do not currently have one as a result of this new policy?

Delwiche responded that this was a possibility.

Senator Zhu, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, inquired whether there was any data on whether this practice is effective. She stated that if there were no consequences, it would not be effective.

Delwiche noted that the committee met with a group of advisors who suggested that mid-term grades were very effective and important. Two different colleges had quantitative measurements of the utility of these grades and their effectiveness in helping students that are struggling.

Senator Zhu also questioned whether students could indicate that the early warning grade was not sufficient to keep them from failing a course.

Delwiche noted that students who were doing poorly in courses have complained that they were not notified of how poorly they were doing because faculty have failed to provide early warning grades.

Senator Ledlum, graduate student, College of Information Studies, stated that a possible solution would be to require all faculty to use ELMS because it gives students expanded capabilities for creating “what-if” scenarios for grades.

Delwiche stated that ELMS had several technological limitations that would make the suggestion unrealistic, including poor integration across multi-lecture sections courses; limitations in how grades are calculated; and that ELMS is not appropriate for all course structures.

Senator Soltan, faculty, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, suggested that the system be altered so that faculty had flexibility in choosing when they would report midterm grades. This would increase buy-in and reduce course restructuring.

Delwiche respond that this suggestion goes along with a more flexible system but that the current program has some history related to the specific window selected. For IT reasons, it is very helpful to have a specific reporting date.

Webster called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 51 in favor, 14 opposed, and 7 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

Special Order of the Day
David Mitchell
Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety, University of Maryland
Police Department
Active Shooter / Threat Preparedness

Webster introduced David Mitchell, Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety, to present information on active shooter and threat prevention at the University.

Mitchell thanked Webster for the opportunity to address the Senate.

Mitchell noted that, during the past ten years, theft was recorded as the largest problem on campus. He provided information that one out of every four active shootings occur at an educational institution and that the current training for first responders include methods to isolate, distract, and neutralize an active shooter threat. Mitchell reviewed the history of domestic shooting events in the United States and informed senators that the University Police Department trains with other local departments in order to foster consistency among departments. He reviewed the technology that is currently employed on campus to detect, report, and respond to an active shooter.

Chief Mitchell then reviewed the supplies that the University received from the federal 1033 program, which includes 50 rifles for 33 operators, 1 armored vehicle, 2 Humvees. The UMPD formerly had 16 shotguns, but these were returned to the program. He stated that all police departments operating at college campuses with over 15,000 students have rifles. The Chief showed photos of the Humvee and noted that the armored vehicle is lightly armored and use to aid in rescuing victims in the event of multiple casualties. Because of their high clearance, the vehicles are also useful during weather emergencies. Mitchell stressed the importance of preparing for these types of events by educating, training, and planning. He demonstrated several pieces of equipment including 'go bags' and body cameras while joined by Sgt. David Fields, MPO Michael Weller and Sgt. Roseanne Hoas.

Webster thanked Mitchell for his presentation and for all that he and his staff do to keep the campus community safe and asked the Senate to give them an ovation to thank them for their presentation and commitment to campus safety.

New Business

Webster stated that, due to the time limit of the meeting having been reached, if new business was to be presented, there would need to be a motion with a 2/3rd majority vote to extend the time limit.

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Senate Chair Webster adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.