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Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

March 2, 2015

3:30 PM

Presiding: Michael Carter

Attendees: Lisa Abdallah, Laura Barefield, Michael Beers, Dhimiter Bello, Dina Bozicas, Michael Carter, Nicole Champagne, Shehong Chen, Johanna Choo, Timothy Cook, Timothy Crain, Judith Davidson (for Phitsamay Uy), Paul DeStefano, Alan Doerr, Heidi Fantasia, Susan Faraji, William Fisher, Rebecca Foco, Steven Freund, Alice Frye, Jessica Garb, Michael Geiger, Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti, Nancy Goodyear, Jennifer Gorczyca, Michael Graves, Christopher Hansen, Carol Hay, Ivy Ho, Javier Horta, Ying Huang, Alexander Kheifets, David Kingsley, Ainat Koren, Saira Latif, Jason Lawrence, Haim Levkowitz, Erika Lewis, Karen Lin, Benyuan Liu, David Lustick, Margaret Manion, Maria Matz, John McKelliget, Dalila Megherbi, Garrett Michaelsen, Joshua Millard, Stephen Mishol, Keith Mitchell, Arthur Mittler, Joann MoriartyBaron, Nese Orbey, Robert Parkin, April Pattavina, Prakash Rai, Emmanuelle Reynaud, Charlotte Ryan, David Ryan, Michelle Scribner-MacLean, Richard Serna, Jonathan Silverman, Shellie Simons, Jana Sladkova, Meg Sobkowicz-Kline, Laurie Soroken, Stefanie Tate, Walter Toomey, James Veatch, Jenna Vinson (for Sue Kim), Vinod Vokkarane, Yana Weinstein, Jennifer Wilber, Thomas Wilson, YiNing Wu, Seongkyu Yoon, Patrick Young, TzuYang Yu, Juheng Zhang

Recording: Martha Burns

The meeting commenced at 3:36 PM.

- Minutes of December 1, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made by Robert Parkin to accept the December 1, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Alan Doerr and passed unanimously.

Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (GPAC), (Robert Malloy)

- Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Geoscience

A question was posted by David Lustick as to whether a course on Climate Change will be taught as part of this certificate. The petitioner, Nelson Eby, was unable to attend the meeting and therefore not able to provide a response. Nelson Eby will attend the April 6, 2015 Senate meeting to respond. The item was tabled for the time being.

- Proposal for Options in the Master of Public Health (MPH)
 - a. Gerontology
 - b. Healthcare Management
 - c. Nutrition
 - d. Population Health

Associate Dean Houde provided an overview of the options. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Associate Dean Houde provided an overview of this certificate. It is helpful as a conduit into the degree program. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Field Programmable Gate Array
Martin Margala presented this proposal. He indicated that students have expressed interest in this certificate. A motion was made to accept the certificate. It was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Proposal to change course requirements in the PhD in Engineering: Plastics Engineering Option
Robert Malloy provided an overview of the changes. Each department in Engineering has its own option. Some years back changes instituted were not very unified. These changes will unify the requirements. There will be no change in the number of credits. A motion was made to accept the changes. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC), (Arthur Mittler)

- Proposal to add a Data Science Option for Computer Science Majors
Ekaterina Saenko provided an overview of the option. The option consists of six courses – four required courses and two electives. The option will appeal to students who are strong in both Mathematics and Computer Science. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

For Information Only:

- GPAC: Final Proposal for a Master of Science in Engineering Management (MSEM)
- UPC: Proposal to change College of Sciences BS Requirements
- UPC: Proposal to eliminate writing requirement from the Mathematical Sciences Curriculum
- UPC: Proposal to restructure the Baccalaureate in Nursing Degree Pathway
- UPC: Proposal to revise the Sound Recording Technology Minor for Computer Science Majors and for Electrical and Computer Engineering Majors

Core Curriculum Committee (CCC), (Michael Graves)

- Michael Graves, chairperson, provided an update on the committees' work in reviewing courses submissions for the new Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO) requirements. The process is working well. Courses are sent back often requesting clarification on how the ELO is being met. There are three members on each subcommittee. Keith Mitchell inquired as to whether the work will be up to date in the Fall of 2015. Vice Provost Mandell indicated that for the most part the ELO's are in the upper level courses. She proposed that transfer students be placed on the old system. This may be up to the department. Michael Graves will send the link to the College Coordinators and ask that they send to all faculty in their respective departments.

Other Business

- Faculty Senate By-Laws
Faculty was asked to look the document over. Final discussion of the By-Laws will take place at the April 6, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting. Michael Carter thanked Martha Burns for her work on the Faculty Senate. His comment was greeted with thunderous applause and whistling.
- Spring 2015 Faculty Senate Election Guidelines, Faculty Senator Listing with 2015 and 2016 term ends
Martha Burns will be contacting Department Chairpersons requesting "replacement/re-elect" Faculty Senators for Senators whose terms end at the April 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting. Replacement/re-elected Senators begin their two year term at the May 2015 Senate Meeting.

Faculty Senate President Michael Carter provided an update on the budget. There is a huge budget deficit in Massachusetts. He indicated that he is on the Budget and Planning Committee but a budget for next year has not been developed yet. There is no threat of layoffs coming. We anticipate that the year will end with a slight budget surplus.

Michael Carter also indicated that relative to Faculty Contracts the union is setting up a meeting with the Chancellor and the Provost to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM.