

Minutes for Faculty Council Meeting, 12/7/11

(FCm-20111207; for companion agenda, see FCa-20111207)

Agenda Item	Actions	Notes
Preliminaries		
1 (a-b) Call to order; announcements	D. Hahn calls meeting to order; makes announcements.	2:04pm.
Members Present: R. Grenci, W. Bokanic, G. Porter, C. Yuh-Cherng, T. Short, R. Day, P. Shick, B. D'Ambrosia, A. Kugler, A. Imam, D. Hahn, T. Hayes, L. Curtis, C. Buchanan, K. Gygli, D. Taylor, J. Spencer, P. Mooney, J. McWeeny, N. Taylor		
Actions		
2a. 403(b) implementation problems.	A. Kugler moves that Faculty Council recommends that the Administration not move further on the 403(b) plan, pending further information about the plan's costs; and pending a revote of the faculty. Motion is seconded. Motion passes: 18Y, 0N, 1A.	
2b. UBC request to investigate summer session (R. Kolesar, HS).	In light of R. Kolesar's request, P. Shick moves that an ad hoc committee of Faculty Council be formed to review Summer Session and make policy recommendations in regard to scheduling; faculty compensation and incentives; tuition, fees, and discounts; and academic policies related to major, minor, concentration and core credit for courses taken by matriculated students at other institutions. Composition of this committee is to be determined by the Faculty Council, and it will work with the offices of the Vice Presidents for Academics, Business, Student Affairs and with the Student Union." Motion is seconded. Motion passes: 18Y 0N 0A.	See attached document .
Hiatus	P. Mooney points out, on behalf of Parliamentarian B. Brossmann that the rationale for the motion discussed in 2a. [(403)b plan] is about a possible reduction in benefits. Council agrees to make explicit in the minutes this connection between an investigation into <i>costs</i> of implementation and a concern with those resulting in a <i>reduction in benefits</i> .	
2c. Proposal from UCC related to transient courses. (B. D'Ambrosia)	CAP Chair B. D'Ambrosia reports that this proposal is awaiting a recommendation from CAP. Council believes that no additional open hearings on the proposal are necessary since some were already conducted in the Spring, 2011.	See attached document .
2d. Possible problem with "Inside JCU".	K. Gygli reports that "Inside JCU" failed to list an item that she asked be listed. J. McWeeny reports similar failures concerning items of her own submission. J. McWeeny moves that Faculty Council investigate the procedures by which submitted items get posted by "Inside JCU". By unanimous consent , Council agrees that the FC officers will initiate the investigation.	
Concluding Items		
7. Adjourn		3:23 pm.

The following documents are not part of the official minutes of the meetings of the Faculty Council. They instead help to identify the specific matters discussed as recorded in the minutes.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

Bob Kolesar, History, presented the following motion at the University Budget Committee on Friday. The UBC, which has had several discussions of summer school, approved this motion. I am sure members of the UBC would be available to consult with whatever group takes up this issue for the Faculty Council. In addition, the Academic Deans, Associate AVPs, Associate Deans, the Registrar, and Joe Miller, Director of Summer School, have also met several times to discuss summer school issues. In several of these meetings we have been joined by Rich Mausser and Brian Williams. One or more individuals involved in these discussions would also be willing to meet with the Faculty Council group. One of the issues the administrative group has addressed is the number of students who enroll elsewhere to take courses for Core or other requirements; the course equivalents for which students earn credit elsewhere are known through the petitions for credit filed with the Registrar. Recently Joe Miller wrote to the department chairs bringing these courses to their attention and asking departments to offer courses, not offered in recent years, that students are taking elsewhere. So far, three departments have made notable positive responses to Joe's request. It is likely that Joe will make a second request soon.

Bob Kolesar
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 1:27 PM
To: budget@jcu.edu
Subject: motion on summer session Motion The Budget Committee requests Faculty Council to review Summer Session and make policy recommendations in regard to scheduling; faculty compensation and incentives; tuition, fees, and discounts; and academic policies related to major, minor, concentration, and core credit for courses taken by matriculated students at other institutions. While this may be assigned to a Standing Committee of the Faculty Council, an ad hoc committee dedicated to this task may be preferable. If an ad hoc committee is formed, we suggest that it be composed of a majority of elected faculty and representatives from the offices of the Vice Presidents for Academics, Business, and Student Affairs and from the Student Union.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

The UCC recommends imposing a limit on the number of transient courses counting for Core credit. We recommend that after matriculation at JCU, the limit be 18 credit hours of transient courses counting for Core.

This policy, if approved by the Faculty in Spring 2012, would go into effect for those students entering in Fall 2012.

Background:

There is currently no limit on the number of transient courses that may count for Core credit. Data from the Enrollment Division indicate that while most students who apply transient courses to the Core requirements do so with only a small number of transient credits, nevertheless a small but growing set of students do achieve a large number of their Core credits from other institutions. The increasing number of Core courses taken elsewhere was a concern expressed in Core Director Earl Spurgin's reports to the faculty in both May 2009 and May 2010.

In Spring 2011, when the UCC approved a new policy allowing online courses from other institutions to count for Core credit, the committee felt some concern that this might further exacerbate students' flight to other institutions for Core courses. Because an increasing number of the courses offered at other institutions are online courses, to impose a limit on transient courses counting for Core would also have the effect of limiting the number of online courses that will be counted.

Why apply the policy only after matriculation? Transfer students often enter John Carroll with several semesters' worth of college courses. To limit the number of those courses that can count for JCU's Core would present a significant, and we think unreasonable, obstacle to transfer students' enrollment at and graduation from John Carroll. Furthermore, we do not wish to create an obstacle to those students who enter with AP credits.

Why 18 credits? This number is roughly one-third of our current 57-credit Core. A more restrictive limit might hamper students' ability to transfer Core credits from semester-long study abroad programs. We do not want to discourage study abroad.

How will this policy be enforced? Core Director Gwen Compton-Engle has met and discussed the logistics of this policy with all the Assistant Deans, two members of the Registrar's office, and Associate Dean Peter Kvidera. All of them support the proposal. Furthermore, John Reebel in ITS has developed a mechanism for its enforcement, namely a simple reporting form using the Argos reporting software. When a transient petition is received by the Core Director, s/he can type the student's Banner ID into this form and receive a list of post-matriculation transfer credits that the student has already been granted for Core credit. If the student has already reached the limit, the petition will be denied Core credit. The Registrar's office, upon receiving transcripts and entering the credits into Banner, will double-check to ensure that the student has not surpassed the limit. (This check at the end is essential because students often file multiple petitions simultaneously.) A sentence about this policy will also be added to the transient petition form.

Costs: We do not anticipate that this policy will incur any additional costs, except the small amount of additional time required of the Core Director and the Registrar's office. The potential educational benefit of ensuring that the majority of students' Core courses are taken at John Carroll would be far greater than this negligible cost.