University Board of Undergraduate Studies

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2014

Present: Noel Adams, Ed Blumenthal, Marcus Braga-Alves, Sarah Feldner, Behnam Ghasemzadeh, Gary Meyer, Stephanie Quade, Jim Richie, Christine Shaw, Debra Oswald, Sandra Cleveland, Alex Lahr, John Su

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Sarah Feldner.

Reflection was provided by Sandra Cleveland.

The minutes of January 2014 were unanimously approved with name spelling corrections. Moved to approve by Noel Adams and was seconded by Jim Richie.

Sarah Feldner started the conversation about graduation credit requirements and introduced the idea of whether or not there should be a cap on classes that can count toward multiple requirements. This is something that will come up with the newly proposed neuroscience minor that we will review for a future meeting. To date the policies on overlapping credits vary across colleges and there is no consistent policy.

Gary Meyer also noted we will be reviewing a discontinuation of a major “psychology for nurses.”

Sarah Feldner noted a conversation with the office of finance that changing credits will not have financial implications. G. Meyer and S. Quade suggested that this be put in writing.

Sarah Feldner opened the discussion of whether we want or are ready to make a recommendation that the university has a standard policy that 120 credits are the minimum number needed for graduation (rather than 128). It was noted that currently there is no university policy about the number of minimum credits needed for graduation. Currently each college has set their minimum credits independently. M. Ghasemzadeh raised the question of how do we decide on 120. Issues of the number of credits needed by majors, comparison institutions, program requirements were raised. The discussion considered rationale for reducing credits including: improvement of national rankings, improving graduation rates, consistency with comparison institutions, facilitating transfer students movement to MU, financial considerations, reducing student stress by requiring students taking 18 credits some semesters

G. Meyer recommended that the board draft a proposal that be circulated around the committee before it is sent to other groups. Christine Shaw agreed to draft the proposal with Sarah.
G. Meyer also requested feedback from MUSG and the student perception. Alex Lahr noted that students do not necessarily mean the reduction to 120 would mean core requirement change. Alex Lahr suggested that MUSG is more interested in core reform than credit requirement change. John Su offered to attend a MUSG meeting with Sarah Feldner to discuss these issues with that board.

S. Feldner indicated that she had received a list of issues from MSUG and that these will be highlighted in future meetings.

Motion to adjourn was made by Noel Adams and seconded by Jim Ritchie.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15.
Respectfully Submitted by Debra Oswald