University Board of Undergraduate Studies  
Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2013

PRESENT: Blumenthal, Ghasemzadeh, Harrison, Meyer, Quade, Richie (Chairperson), Shaw, Sideritis, Su, Toumanoff, Wallace.

The meeting began at 1:08 pm. An opening reflection was given by Ed Blumenthal.

The minutes of the previous meeting (Feb. 6, 2013) were unanimously approved without changes.

Announcements: Chairman Richie announced that the proposed UBUS charge was submitted to the UAS Task Force.

Discussion: 1.) Dr. Linda Salchenberger, Dean of the College of Business Administration, presented a summary explanation of the University Program Review: its Principles, Purpose and Procedures, the character of the yet-to-be-formed Program Review Council, the role of the Provost and Associate Provost, the nature and rationale for the proposed 7-8 year cycle of the Review process, a description of the Program Review Council membership and the major steps of the Review Process, a brief description of the various University entities to be involved in studying, assessing and communicating the results of the total Program Review, as well as plans for creating adequate resources and venues to make relevant data easily available for continuing program reviews.

There were several inquiries made of her about various aspects of the Program Review; for example, having to do with adequate resources, the way in which different University units will analyzed, whether this process will improve current accreditation cycles, the need to collate and make readily available in one location if possible the large volume of data to be gathered, concerns about the workload required of the members of the Review Committee, whether the Core Curriculum program will be included as part of the assessment review, the start date and schedule for the whole process, et al.

2.) Dr. Kevin Gibson, an Associate Dean in the Graduate School, made a brief presentation of proposed revisions for the Accelerated Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree Policy (ADP). The ADP program which exists is intended for students who show high academic potential and want to take graduate-level courses while they are still undergraduates. In some instances, these courses fulfill requirements at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Gibson reviewed the rationale for the ADP, viz., that it helps Marquette retain some of its best students for advanced study and gives those participating successfully in the program early admission to the Graduate School. It also enables academic units a measure of freedom to require stricter guidelines than those of the Graduate School.

The revision called for: “Approval of ADP proposals will be made by the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School. The UBGS and Academic will be informed.” After some brief discussion and clarifications, the revision passed unanimously.

3.) Dr. John Su spoke briefly about plans to achieve more effective assessment of the Senior Experience and “Capstone” courses. He announced that there will be $1000 grants made available for faculty who are willing to integrate rigorous assessment procedures into these courses. The goal is to achieve better results in measuring the success of these courses to achieve integration of subject matters, as well as the number of participating programs and the percentage of students who get assessed in an effective way.

4.) Dr. Gary Meyer asked for additional responses to Dr. Salchenberger’s presentation. Some concerns were expressed about the reason for the 7 yr. cycle, about the sharing of the data, the scope of the reports, and the labor-intensive character involved in doing the work of the Program Review Council.

Dr. Toumanoff announced that the Academic Integrity Survey had been launched and expressed hope that there would be widespread participation in the survey.
Mr. Zach Wallace, student representative, announced that MUSG had endorsed a program to have a Minor in Arabic Studies and sought advice from UBUS. He was advised of the procedure to be followed for seeking approval by the Dept. of Foreign Language and Literature and encouraged to determine whether there is sufficient student interest to justify the program and to seek out faculty from other academic units who might be willing to offer relevant courses to enrich such a program and make it more viable.

Chairman Richie announced that the next meeting of the UBUS will be April 3 and that there will be a second meeting on April 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley Harrison