

Minutes
Academic Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees
February 22, 2011

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met in Room H, 18th Floor Patterson Office Tower at 10:30 a.m. on February 22. Penny Brown called the meeting to order. The following members were in attendance: Keith Gannon, Joe Peek, Charles Sachatello and Barbara Young.

Ms. Brown distributed the minutes of the December 7, 2010 meeting and asked for any corrections or additions. There being no changes, a motion was made by Charles Sachatello to accept the minutes as distributed and seconded by Barbara Young. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 1: Creation of the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education - Resolution requesting approval to create the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education in the College of Education, effective July 1, 2011. The proposed Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education will expand and enhance STEM Education at UK and for the Commonwealth in significant ways. The department will work in synergistic ways through the use of focused disciplinary and transdisciplinary practices to prepare 21st century STEM education leaders and to improve STEM education through implementation of research-based practices, engagement with the P20 communities and businesses, unique research experiences, and innovative programs. Along with strengthening teacher preparation programs already in place in continued collaboration with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the STEM Education Department will build new bachelor's and doctoral programs in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics education. The department will lead the Commonwealth in STEM Education research by attracting graduate students as well as future STEM faculty researchers pursuing cutting edge research in these disciplines. A motion was made by Charles Sachatello to approve the recommendation and seconded by Barbara Young. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 2: Academic Degree Recommendation – Resolution requesting authorization to establish a Ph.D. in Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) to support intellectually rigorous research education, training, and career development of Clinical and Translational Science scholars at the University of Kentucky. The goal of the proposed Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) program is to improve the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the nation by training professionals with terminal professional health care degrees to conduct clinical and translational science research. The Ph.D. in Clinical and Translational Science is an interdisciplinary training program. Scholars enrolled in the program will have completed terminal professional training in interdisciplinary programs, and the curriculum reflects the rigorous training (e.g., medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, public health) that scholars will have completed prior to enrolling in the program. All entering scholars will complete a common 12-credit curriculum to establish core competencies in CTS. They will

then complete a tailored curriculum of interdisciplinary courses designed to meet their research interests and career trajectories. The program will not compete with existing graduate training programs. The Ph.D. in Clinical and Translational Science will be marketed to those scholars with interdisciplinary research interests and career trajectories that expand beyond the boundaries of existing graduate programs. A motion was made by Keith Gannon to approve the recommendation and seconded by Barbara Young. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 3: Change in Degree (College of Agriculture) – Resolution requesting approval to change the name of the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation and Management degree with a major in Natural Resource Conservation and Management to Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Science degree with a major in Natural Resources and Environmental Science (CIP Code: 03.0101, PROG: AG BSNRES NRES), effective in the Spring 2011 Semester. In 2008, the University of Kentucky Natural Resource Conservation and Management (NRCM) undergraduate program was reviewed by an external committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Agriculture. One key recommendation of the external review committee was to revise the NRCM curriculum. The June 2008 External Periodic Review report recommended “the steering committee and other UK faculty work together to develop a set of more well-integrated courses that would better train students in the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to succeed in environmental science and policy careers”. As a result, the NRCM Steering Committee began work on revising the curriculum in 2009. The curriculum has been revised based on input from the NRCM Steering Committee and stakeholders. The curriculum has been restructured to provide better focused and more integrated study of specific natural resource and environmental science topic areas, explicitly related to the student’s selection for the required internship or research experience. Because of the growing enrollment by students interested in the environmental sciences and the addition of environmental science topic areas, we propose to change the name of the NRCM program to Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES). A motion was made by Barbara Young to approve the recommendation and seconded by Keith Gannon. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 4: Change in Degree (College of Communications and Information Studies) – Resolution requesting approval to change the name of the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Telecommunications to Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Media Arts and Studies (CIP Code: 09.0799, PROG: CI BA MAST/CI BS MAST), effective in the Spring 2011 Semester. The classic definition of telecommunication(s) is the transmission of signals over a distance for the purpose of communication. Although in principle this definition captures most forms of electronic communication, in practice the term has come to refer primarily to point-to-point systems, such as telegraph, telephony, and computer networks. Given limited resources, and recent efforts to develop a sharper curricular focus on media studies, the Telecommunications major program has de-emphasized the study of telephony. While we continue to offer courses on communication technologies, these courses mostly support the core curriculum in creative media production, convergent media industries, and socio-cultural media studies. The proposed name, Media Arts and Studies, is a more accurate descriptor for our current program. The current name of the program, Telecommunications, has always been rather opaque to prospective students. It is not a term they are generally familiar with, and does not help to convey the true nature of the program. Thus, the name change to Media Arts and Studies is intended to more effectively communicate our program to students who have academic and

career interests in broadcasting, cable, multimedia, and the audio-recording, film, and electronic game industries. A motion was made by Barbara Young to approve the recommendation and seconded by Keith Gannon. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Mike Mullen, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, gave an update on the Honors Program, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Honors Program has about 380-400 students with a retention rate of 97-98%. Having a strong Honors Program is a benefit to the students and the University.

There have been ongoing discussions over the past two years on revamping the Honors Program, but no program changes have been finalized. Several issues that are critical to having a strong Honors Program include participation of faculty from all colleges, developing cohesive co-curricular experiences, and designing a new model that the University can sustain over several years. The goal is to have a completely revamped Honors Program available in the Fall of 2012.

Ms. Brown thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penelope A. Brown
Academic Affairs Committee