



Educational Policies Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday, 21 March 2022

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Leadership present: Chair Pamela E. Grimm; Secretaries Therese E. Tillett, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Aimee J. Bell, Christa N. Ord

Administrators present: Deans Christina L. Bloebaum, Mark S. Mistur

Administrators not present: Senior Associate Provost Manfred H. van Dulmen

Faculty present: Professors Edward Dauterich, Karen Gracy, Denise M. McEnroe-Petitte; Associate Professors Brian R. Barber, Vanessa J. Earp, Bethany G. Lanese, Michael Ensley, Helen Piontkivska; Assistant Professors Jo A. Dowell, Lameck M. Onsarigo, Christopher Rowan; Associate Lecturers Mary F. Kutchin, Shelley K. Marshall

Faculty not present: Professors Vinay K. Cheruvu, Robert D. Hisrich; Associate Professors Duane J. Ehredt, Derek Kingsley, Geoffrey Steinberg, Jonathan F. Swoboda, Brett D. Tippey; Assistant Professors Cat E. Goodall, Eric S. Kildow

Students present: Mitchell D. Powers

Guests: Donna Alexander, Susan Augustine, Brenda Burke, Susan Emens, Paul Haridakis, Joanna Liedel, Sarah Malcolm, Marcia Zeng, Emily Metzgar, Amy Reynolds, Debbie Rozner, Holly Slocum, Alison Smith, Linnea Stafford, Sue Wamsley, Deidre Warren, Marcia Zeng, Yin Zhang, Cathy Zingrone, Lynette Johnson

Chair Pamela E. Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:20p.m., on Monday, 21 March 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Meeting on 31 January 2022

Associate Lecturer Marshall made a motion to approve, and Professor Dauterich seconded the motion.

With no comments, concerns or corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Subcommittee Reports

A. Committee on Communicating Academic Standards

Brenda Burke and Holly Slocum, co-chairs

Brenda stated that the members include Kent Campus and Regionals. The committee came from a financial aid program review which is performed every six to seven years. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has to re-approve Kent State University to participate in the federal financial aid program. Financial Aid must look at all the programs, campus policies, how admission is determined, academic standards and matriculation and how students are able to receive financial aid. With the review on academic progress, ODE noted that the financial aid office was not as strict on GPA as the university policy. That lead ODE to do some spot checking on GPA's that they saw on academic pages, and they questioned the inconsistencies. This committee was then formed to review the GPA inconsistencies and how they are being shared to students. The committee has found some misconceptions on acceptability and the process for updating a major GPA. The source of truth will come from the catalog. A defined process has been created by the committee for updates to major GPA will go through Curriculum Information Management (CIM), college/school/department curriculum committee, deans, Provost and EPC. Some pages link to the catalog and others have hard coded GPA information. They believe this is where the inconsistencies were found by ODE. Financial Aid will modify their policy based on the decision of EPC. The committee's recommendation includes Curriculum Services sending a reminder of the current process to colleges and programs to ensure major GPA requirements are changed through the formal process. Brenda will be hiring a federal work-study student. The student will research all the college and program pages that are not linked to the catalog. The webmaster will be contacted for the names that run the college pages whose pages show hard-coded GPA information and ask them to link to the catalog. Brenda will follow-up and note when the changes are complete. An option will be given to use the delivered API from CourseLeaf which will alleviate the need to manually update the college websites. This will require Curriculum Services to work with UCM to make the API easily available to the programs that prefer to keep the information on their websites.

Chair Grimm asked what the delivered API from CourseLeaf means.

Therese explained that the API allows integration coding from CourseLeaf, the vendor for catalog, into Drupal. It is a matter of embedding the API in Drupal. When it is updated in the catalog, it will also be updated on the Drupal page. It will depend on how the college wants to display their page. They may either link to the catalog or use the API in Drupal.

Brenda said that another part of this would be tying it into GPS. The idea is for all academic programs be put into GPS. This impacts the students' understanding of the requirements they need to complete their program and provides the opportunity to create a plan.

Chair Grimm asked why not all programs are in GPS and to what extent GPS is not being used for programs.

Therese said that the degree audit is required for all undergraduate programs. It is optional for graduate programs and standalone certificates to be put into GPS.

Dean Mistur said that there has been discussion at GDAC about requiring graduate programs be put into GPS. Right now, it is highly encouraged. The College of Architecture and Environmental Design will be putting all programs in GPS. People have realized there are many great benefits for everyone to put in all programs.

Chair Grimm asked if there is anyone with a better understanding of the current issues with GPS.

Therese said that there was a recent update, and a bug was discovered. The Registrar's office is working with the vendor to resolve the issue.

Lynette explained that the issue is with sharing. Courses that could have met requirements weren't necessarily sharing between the requirements. Some requirements were left unmet.

Professor Dauterich motioned to approve, and Associate Lecturer seconded.

With no further questions, comments or concerns, the item was passed unanimously.

B. Graduate Policies Council

Brian Barber and Sean Broghammer, co-chairs

The update will be postponed until the April 21st meeting.

C. Internationalization Advisory Committee

Sarah Malcom, co-chair

Sarah stated that Kent State is a recipient of the 2022 Senator Paul Simon award for Comprehensive Internationalization. The committee has three working groups. The curriculum integration working group has been working with Jennifer Kellogg in developing a procedure to help get requests into CIM including 2+2 programs and transfer credit articulation. The partnerships proposal process working group is looking to moving the documentation into DocuSign. The identifying strategic partnerships working group is looking at how to make sure faculty are aware of partnerships when they are occurring and activities that they can participate in for grants, study abroad or recruitment. The curriculum group will be combined with the partnership group to assess international partnerships and developing a plan for those.

Chair Grimm asked if it was the same process for international partnerships as domestic partnerships.

Sarah replied, yes. It is the same process.

III. Policy Proposals Review

A. Action Items

Office of Global Education/English as a Second Language Center

1. International Pathway Program Admission—New Policy to provide pathway for international students who fall slightly short of minimum English proficiency but are otherwise admissible to the university (fall 2022)

Sarah stated that an ESL pathway is a special designation from Student Exchange Visitors Program (SEVP). The majority of international students are F1 students, and they fall into the

SEVP category which is overseen by the Department of Homeland Security. When a student is admitted to Kent State, they are issued an I20. All of the academic programs have to be approved by SEVP before an I20 can be issued. The ESL pathway is an admissions option for international students on the threshold of meeting full English proficiency. This is designed for students who are academically fully admissible except for their English proficiency. This allows for concurrent enrollment in ESL and academic courses and helps students make progress towards degree completion. Students do this currently, but a special immigration document cannot be issued.

Debbie said that there is an undergraduate and graduate option. For undergraduates, this would be a two-semester program. Both semesters, students would be enrolled in 15 credit-hours. The first semester includes students taking ESL courses to bring them up to the English requirement. The second semester, they continue with ESL coursework. There is also an option for concurrent enrollment with select students. Graduate students have a one-semester pathway. It is only for select programs. The programs where the English requirement is at the undergraduate level or just one step above. In this one semester, students would be taking one academic course in their major and the rest of their coursework would be in writing, reading and spoken communication. The four undergraduate programs approved for this pathway are Arts and Sciences general, Fashion, Business and Aeronautics and Engineering. ESL graduate pathway programs are TESL, Computer Science, EHHS, Music, Math and Data Science.

Sarah explained this helps to meet students where they are in their English proficiency by giving them a bridge from ESL to academic courses. It does not penalize them and gives them a clear roadmap of how they will transition. This pathway makes enrollment more competitive internationally. Three peers in the state have pathway programs—University of Cincinnati, Ohio University and Cleveland State University. The hope is that it will keep students interested at KSY instead of going elsewhere. The next steps include OGE application through I-17 renewal process and wait for approval from the Student and Exchange Visitors Program.

Therese asked for clarification that students would be able to a hybrid of ESL and program courses.

Sarah said, that is correct.

Therese asked how many students are in the range of close eligibility.

Sarah said it is hard to say, because a student close to the IELTS requirement would go to a school with a pathway or a lower English proficiency. KSU is not typically getting those students but hopes to with this pathway.

Dean Mistur asked about I20 paperwork status for the students going through this pathway.

Sarah explained that with the new pathway, the students will have an F1. They will also get a special I20 that indicates they are in the pathway and allows for full admission into their academic program.

Dean Mistur asked if this will limit student's ability to work or have an internship.

Sarah replied, no. They will have full F1 benefits.

Chair Grimm asked if there is a plan for follow-up on how the students are doing in the program courses.

Debbie added that would be a good idea to be added to make sure that there is no academic slippage in the first few years of the program. The ESL courses will support the program courses. Having a number of academic courses that are supported through the program courses, activities and tutoring will give them a great boost into their degree programs.

Chair Grimm asked if the tutoring available for current students is available for students going through this pathway (i.e., math)

Debbie said that subject-specific tutoring is available for the students. Students are guided to these resources by OCDE. Anything related to English tutoring will go through OCDE.

Chair Grimm asked that if this pathway is successful, could this be marketed to other schools that do not have those pathways.

Sarah said that is a possibility. There has been some interest from local private schools of KSU doing ESL for some of their students. The only issue would be that KSU is issuing immigration documents. They would have to go through a different process to transition to their other school.

Associate Lecturer Kutchin asked if this pathway is something that Nursing can collaborate on with OCDE in the future.

Sarah explained that once the approval comes from SEVP, any program can be added.

Professor Dauterich moved to approve the item, and Associate Lecturer Kutchin seconded.

Without further questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

IV. Program Proposals Review

A. Action Items

College of Communication and Information School of Information

1. Applied Data and Information – Undergraduate Minor—Establish minor on Kent Campus (fall 2022)

Professor Zhang stated that they started with a broad data science landscape study. Data science is a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary subject for the leading players in data science. This was identified from an institutional review and from a systematic survey from data science programs. Some of the leaders identified are business, computer science, information science, iSchools, mathematics and statistics. The iSchool Organization established a data science curriculum committee to make core recommendations to highlight some of the curriculum that iSchools make unique contributions. After research, the committee identified some gaps in data science education at KSU. The iSchool made sure to distinguish the minor from other data

science programs on campus. iSchool created curriculum that would focus in targeted areas. The committee worked with related areas on campus to develop a name that was easy to understand and explain. Units across campus have given their support.

Associate Lecturer Marshall motioned to approve, and Professor McEnroe-Petitte seconded the motion.

Without questions, comments or concerns, the item passed unanimously.

B. Discussion Items

College of Communication and Information

School of Communication Studies/School of Media and Journalism

1. Communication, Media and Advocacy – M.A.—Program development plan to establish a new degree program; full proposal to come to EPC for a vote at later date

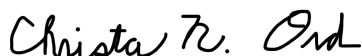
Emily stated that the program is to prepare students to use communication effectively and to advocate on behalf of their personal, social and political goals. The structure of the degree is an integration of two M.A. programs in Communication studies and Media and Journalism. This program will blend the two capitalizing on faculty expertise and existing collaborations, reducing redundancy and allowing for focus on interdisciplinary issues. This will meet the demands of growing expertise in media advocacy. The program will appeal to graduating undergraduate students and professionals seeking further education. A recent search on indeed and LinkedIn shows hundreds of job opportunities. The learning outcomes focus on making sure students are able to effectively use digital and personal intercommunication tools in an advocacy context, do their work with a deep understanding about discipline theories of communication, ability to identify intervention strategies and the capability to apply methodology for the assessment of the effectiveness of their work in research of audiences. Requirements include a nine-credit core, three-credit methods course, multidisciplinary electives courses at 12-15 hours and culminating experience. There are no anticipated additional costs for implementing the program with the integration of existing communication studies and media journalism degrees. This should reduce costs. They will be phasing out both degrees with replacement of the Communication, Media and Advocacy degree.

Therese asked how if there will be a specific committee for admissions, curriculum review and updates that include both schools.

Paul said that there will still be a Graduate Studies committee. The committee will be made up of faculty from both schools. There will be a graduate coordinator that comes from each of the schools. It is not anticipated that it will be any bigger than it is now.

With no further questions or comments, Chair Grimm concluded the meeting at 4:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christa N. Ord
Administrative Secretary
Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost