

Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2002
University Center Room 211A

Chancellor O'Brien called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as circulated (with the motion moved and seconded by numerous faculty members simultaneously.)

Dr. Eliza Ghil, Chairperson of Department of Foreign Language provided a brief eulogy for the late S. George Wolf, Ph.D., Professor of French.

Connie Phelps, a member of the Policy Committee, distributed a ballot for the election of faculty members to serve as members of the Hearings Committee Pool, a standing Committee of the Faculty Council. The ballot included fifteen faculty nominees. It was determined that the two faculty receiving the most votes would be elected for the 2002-2005 terms and the 3rd, 4th, and 5th place vote getters would serve for the 2001-2004 period. Sybil Boudreau (Library) and Susan Mann (Sociology) were elected for the 2002-2005 terms and Richard Cole (Chemistry), Kevin Graves (Drama and Communications), and Mary Ruetten (English) were elected for the 2001-2004 period.

Dr. Carl Malmgren, Chair of the Faculty Council Committee on Courses and Curricula, presented two motions on behalf of the Committee. The first motion read as follows:

Motion One: That the General Degree requirements be changed as follows:

Current Catalog Wording (p.60):

- d. Science – 11 hours, including eight hours of one science (two of them laboratory) and three hours of another. One of the sciences must be Biology and the other one must be Chemistry, Geology, or Physics.

New Catalog Wording:

- d. Science – 11 hours, including eight hours of one science (two of them laboratory) and three hours of another.

An amendment was made and seconded to clarify that science was to be defined operationally as the courses taught by the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology and Geophysics, and Physics.

An amendment to the amendment to include Environmental Science was introduced. After discussion the amendment to the amendment failed.

After substantial discussion, the motion to amend the Courses and Curriculum Committee's motion to include courses taught by the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology and Geophysics, and Physics passed unanimously.

The full motion was then discussed and passed as follows:

- d. Science – 11 hours, including eight hours of one science (two of them laboratory) and three hours of another. The Science courses must be selected from those offered from the following departments: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology and Geophysics, and Physics*

The C&C Committee had noted that if this motion passed, the change in the science requirement would have to be approved by the Board of Regents in order for it to go into effect.

The Council then considered Motion Two as presented by Professor Malmgren.

Motion Two: That the following general degree requirement be added (as item **I**, p.61):

- i Diversity Requirement – Each student must take at least three hours of credit in a course which exposes him or her to the remarkable diversity in human cultures.*

Chairperson Malmgren indicated that “Diversity here should be understood in its widest application, as including factors such as ethnicity, gender, race, class or a significant international component.” Each academic unit would designate the courses in its field which meet this requirement, the designations to be approved by the University Courses and Curriculum Committee.

After substantial discussion, the Chancellor asked that voting be conducted by a show-of-hands. The motion was approved by a one-vote majority. Thus, the following motion is now an added component of UNO’s General Degree Requirements:

- i Diversity Requirement¹ – Each student must take at least three hours of credit in a course which exposes him or her to the remarkable diversity in human cultures.*

¹Diversity is here understood in its widest application, as including factors such as ethnicity, gender, race, class or a significant international component. Each academic unit will designate the courses in its field which meet this requirement, the designations to be approved by the University Courses and Curriculum Committee. [This footnote was a part of the motion as proposed and approved.]

The sense of the Faculty Council was that the C&C Committee and the various academic units should provide a “tight” definition to the term diversity, that the criteria for a given course to meet the diversity requirement should be significant and within the full spirit of diversity/internationalization.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Eason