

A&S Council minutes

December 5, 2013—Medbury Lounge

Present: David Courard-Hauri, Martin Roth, Charlie Nelson, Steven Lancaster, Joe Lenz, Karen Leroux, Amy O'Shaughnessy, Megan Brown, Marc Busch, Joseph Schneider, Michael Haedicke

Dave called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Minutes from 9/4 meeting were approved.

Report from the Dean

Joe, Keith, and Deb DeLaet sit on the budget advisory committee, charged with creating a 5-year budget plan. The group will consider how to build toward a larger EFR number if the target is higher than present, will set goals for retention, and determine a target number for transfer students and graduate programs. This group will set goals by March 18, 2014.

Last year, the discount rate fluctuated more than Drake had planned for (we hit our target number of students, but it cost us more than we'd planned).

The budget advisory committee will also consider viability of non-degree certificate programs—many businesses in Des Moines send employees out of state for training Drake could likely provide here.

3-2 workload: Joe will have a proposal to take to the provost at the start of spring term: feasibility of moving toward it as a pilot or test

The Physics department submitted an invited grant request to Carver Foundation for \$750,000 for renovation of three labs in Harvey-Ingham. There was a recent \$104,000 donation to the Music department's piano campaign.

Curriculum Changes

PHY 170-173 | Hot Topics in Physics and Astronomy

Each number in this span represents a different number for each member of the department. Council recommends that the numbers be consistently handled, with just one number (PHY 170) with different sections for various faculty members. Should be no corequisites.

PHY ASTR 003 | Contemporary Topics in Physics & Astronomy Seminar

"Contemporary Topics" is a seminar course, part of a big curriculum change to make it more flexible – allowing for students to transfer in and out of the physics major, and will allow for study abroad experience.

Physics is the most international program at Drake; only 2 natural-born students out of 7.

Physics courses are unanimously approved.

Women's & Gender Studies

This change essentially drops the capstone from the course, to put the concentration at 18 credits rather than 21; their program review suggested that the number of credits might be impacting the number of students pursuing the concentration. The name of the concentration is changed to Women's & Gender Studies. Unanimously approved.

Aside: The Drake Curriculum requires a capstone. Is it common for students to complete a capstone for each major? Ex: Math, CS, PHY triple major, PSY, SCS double major. Would it create a more meaningful experience for the student to combine these into one cumulative capstone experience?

Art & Design

Would like to have their GPA requirement kick in at 30 credits rather than 60. For transfer students, GPA is based upon 15 credits earned at Drake. Unanimously approved.

BioPhysics

Interdisciplinary, and requires no new courses—all required for this are already on the books. The Physics department is simply drawing the coursework together and communicating the opportunity to students. Plans are to build content into the program as biophysics grows; this is a direction put into place when Adina was hired.

The concentration is set up so that interested non-physics students can participate. There's a sense that biophysics is the cutting edge—related to Pres. Maxwell's message/ attempt to modernize the department, recruit more students.

If the program grows, the research requirement could potentially become unsustainable for current faculty, but for now, the workload is shared among Kilpatrick, Honts, Pharmacy faculty, etc. This concentration will focus the students' attention and identify to employers that they have pursued this field. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned. 4:11 p.m.