Faculty Senate Minutes

10/27/2021 Overflow Business Meeting 3:00-5:00 pm

Zoom

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

CHEROKEE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Western Carolina University is situated within the ancestral homelands of the Cherokee people, twenty miles from present-day Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian communities of the Qualla Boundary. The campus occupies Two Sparrows Place (Tali Tsisgwayahi), an ancient principal town with a mound and council house where Killian Building now stands. Cullowhee, the university's home, is Tsul'kalawi (or Judaculla's Place). This giant being was the Great Teacher and steward of the natural world, and ancient stories about Judaculla tell of the Creator and creation, the origin of humans, and the proper way to be Cherokee. We at Western Carolina University inherit these stories so that we may better understand the deep significance of this beloved place and our role here.

ROLL CALL

- Present: Kia Asberg, Michael Boatright, Indi Bose, David de Jong, Mariana Fisher, Yancey Gulley, Gael Graham, Heidi Grappendorf, Shelby Hicks, Scottie Kapel, Marco Lam, Will Lehman, Erin McNelis, Diana Messer, Sean Mulholland, Leigh Odom, Kadence Otto, Heather Rimes, Carrie Rogers, Katerina Spasovska, Provost Richard Starnes, Vicki Szabo, Drew Virtue, Elizabeth Wark, Colin Wasmund, Laura Wright
- Members with Proxies: John Hildreth, Jeremy Jones, Martin Tanaka, Cheryl Waters-Tormey
- Members Absent: Chancellor Kelli Brown, April Messer

Resolution: Maximum of Two Minors per Major Program

Resolution reads as follows:

APRC Resolution to Limit the Number of Minors to Two per Major Program

WHEREAS the number of students requesting more than two minors be attached to one major program is minimal (around 1 in 12,000), and

WHEREAS enrollment and degree tracking systems in use at Western Carolina University are not able to track progress in more than two minors per major program, and

WHEREAS the burden of record-keeping, tracking progress towards completion, and notifying the Registrar's Office of the need to indicate fulfilment of these additional minors to a students transcript just prior to graduation is placed on the advisor(s),

BE IT RESOLVED the Academic Policy and Review Council (APRC) recommends the following changes be made to the university catalog:

College/Department Degree Requirements
[skipping sections on Majors and Concentrations]

Minors. A minor consists of a group of prescribed and elective courses in an academic discipline, two or more closely related disciplines, an interdisciplinary field of study, or a specially designed individual program. It differs from a major principally in requiring fewer courses (16-24 semester hours) and providing less depth. Students must have a 2.0 in coursework to complete a minor.

A student may not major and minor in the same field and may not have more than two minors in a single major.

Michael Boatright suggested a friendly amendment to change "two minors in a single major" to "two minors per major".
Will Lehman accepted the friendly amendment.

Vicki Szabo asked if anyone from SGA had issue with this.
Will Lehman shared that he has not had anyone offer feedback.
Erin McNelis shared that no one offered feedback.

Kadence Otto says this seems like another example of letting technology limit students and this is not something she supports.

Erin McNelis asked about a BS in English and a BS in Math and what this means?
Will Lehman shared they could have four minors because the majors are listed separately.

Colin Wasmund shared that for 1 in 12,000 it is easy to let this go. For that one student, it is okay to do the extra work. We can make three minors work for them with some manual tracking. It seems that because it happens so seldom, we can do it and should offer it.

Indi Bose seconds Colin and Kadence – this is not a lot of work. If the resolution passes, it stops students from doing this. If the student wants to take a few more classes, we should not be telling them they cannot do it. It doesn't jive with our mission. To absolutely say no, just doesn't sit right.

Erin McNelis shared that one faculty member for A&S responded and said they did not support a resolution because of a limitation of software.

Katerina Spasovska said the university tries to finish in four and if the student adds minors, they may not finish in four. Just another thought on this.

Michael Boatright asked if this went through does this pull it completely off the table?
Will Lehman: Yes, it will make it impossible to attach a third minor to a major. Another option is to table this since so few students are impacted.

Larry Hammer shared that he agreed with Kadie's comment. But there is the timeliness expectation. The expectation is to keep students on track for graduation and we cannot attach a third minor.

Kadence Otto thinks this issue should be taken up with the software manufacturer.

Mariana Fisher shared we should consider that someone who is trying to get three minors is someone coming from high school with about 60 credits. Take that into consideration that there might not be a delay in graduation. It is probably a student on track or maybe it is a student having troubles deciding on a major. I am not sure the delay is really true. We should think about the type of student and whether this would really impact our graduate rates at 1 in 12,000. We should allow them to go the extra mile if they are willing to do that.

Vicki Szabo asked Larry Hammer to go back and try to find a technology fix for this.
Larry Hammer said this is asked of the vendor often, but this is a structure of their database – I wouldn't expect this to be an easy fix or immediate action. Others may have asked this already.
Vicki Szabo asked about possibly tabling this. Maybe we can develop a tracking system.
Larry Hammer shared that awarding the minor has to be done late in the cycle after the degree has been awarded. There is no way to check this easy. It is a substantial lift. It can fall through the cracks.

Erin McNelis asked if there is anything that allows for an addition of a note about the third minor request.
Larry Hammer shared there are some free text comment fields.

Motion was made to vote and seconded.

Vote proceeded and did not pass.

Resolution: Recognition of Coulter Faculty Commons

Resolution reads as follows:

Resolution: Recognition of Coulter Faculty Commons – Faculty Senate Collaboration

Whereas, Western Carolina University's Faculty exercise self-governance and serve as overseers of all academic aspects of the University; and

Whereas, Faculty Senate serves as the principal voice of the faculty to advise the Chancellor and the Provost on the conduct of the University's affairs;

Whereas, the WCU's Coulter Faculty Commons' staff and operations play a vital role as partners "with faculty, departments and programs in course design, evidence-based instructional approaches, assessment, curriculum mapping, new instructional methodologies, research and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning";

Whereas, the Faculty seek to use their areas of expertise to create meaningful and effective student learning experiences, the Coulter Faculty Commons staff seek to use their expertise to assess and mentor faculty with regard to best pedagogical and related research practices;

Whereas, all those involved with teaching and the scholarship of teaching and learning at WCU together seek to foster an environment of evidence-based analysis and improvement of student learning experiences and feedback at WCU;

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recognizes and deeply appreciates past and ongoing collaborations with the Coulter Faculty Commons staff and their ongoing effort to further our constructive interdisciplinary partnership.

Michael Boatright suggested a friendly amendment be made to the language that the CFC assess and mentors' faculty. A suggestion was made to remove "assess and" from the paragraph.
Cheryl Waters-Tormey accepted the friendly amendment.

Motion was made to vote and seconded.

Vote proceeded and passed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MEETING ADJOURNED

Roll/Voting Records:

Senator/Ex-Officio Member		Proxy (if any) by	Attendance		r Approval (Yea (Y), Nay (No) or Abst	
					Max of Two Minors per Major Resolution	CFC and FS Collaboration Resolution
Fisher	Mariana Fisher		Y		No	Y
Graham	Gael Graham		Y		No	Y
Grappendorf	Heid Grappendorf		Y		No	Y
Gulley	Yancey Gulley		Y		No	Y
Hicks	Shelby Hicks	Note: Had to leave early	Y		Not present for vote	Not present for vote
Hildreth	John Hildreth	Drew Virtue	Y(proxy)		No(proxy)	Y
Jones	Jeremy Jones		Y(proxy)		Y(proxy)	Y
Kapel	Scottie Kapel		Y		No	Y
Lam	Marco Lam		Y		No	Y
Lehman	Will Lehman		Y		Y	Y
McNelis	Erin McNelis		Y		No	Y
Messer	Diana Messer		Y		No	Y
Messer	April Messer				Y	Y
Mulholland	Sean Mulholland		Y		No	Y
Odom	Leigh Odom		Y		No	Y
Otto	Kadence Otto		Y		No	Y
Rimes	Heather Rimes		Y		No	Y
Rogers	Carrie Rogers		Y		No	Y
Spasovska	Katerina Spasovska		Y		Y	Y
Starnes	Provost Richard Starnes		Y			
Szabo	Vicki Szabo		Y		No	Y
Tanaka	Martin Tanaka	Will Lehman	Y(proxy)		Y(proxy)	Y
Virtue	Drew Virtue		Y		No	Y
Wark	Elizabeth Wark		Y		No	Y
Wasmund	Colin Wasmund		Y		No	Y
Waters-Torm	Cheryl Waters-Tormey	Erin McNelis	Y(proxy)		No(proxy)	Y
Wright	Laura Wright		Y			
				Yeas	6	28
				Nays	22	0
				Abstain	0	0
				% Yes and Votin	21.43%	100.00%
				% No and Voting	78.57%	0.00%
				Total Voting	28	28