University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2009

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SUMMARY OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING  11/09/09

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wurtz called the meeting to order at 3:17 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the 10/26/09 meeting by Senator Funderburk; second by Senator Bruess. Motion passed.

CALL FOR PRESS IDENTIFICATION

No press present.

COMMENTS FROM PROVOST GIBSON

Provost Gibson had no comments.

COMMENTS FROM FACULTY CHAIR, JESSE SWAN

Faculty Chair Swan had no comments.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR, SUSAN WURTZ

Chair Wurtz noted that recently she had reason to look back at the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-laws, realizing that these document were drafted by faculty in the mid-1970s, and red the document where faculty say we choose to govern ourselves and here’s how we’re going to do it. This has brought fresh appreciation to the work senators are putting in.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

1002 Curriculum Package – Social and Behavioral Sciences and Interdisciplinary Proposals

Motion to docket out of regular order at the head of the docket as items #905 by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin. Motion passed.
A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion to accept the Design, Textiles, Gerontology, and Family Studies Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin. The Senate would be accepting changes in names and descriptions.

Discussion followed.

Motion to accept the Design, Textiles, Gerontology, and Family Studies Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the Geography Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Neuhaus.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion to approve the Geography Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the History Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion to approve the History Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the Political Science Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

Discussion followed.

Motion to approve the Political Science Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the Psychology Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

Discussion followed.

Motion to approve the Psychology Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the Public Policy Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.
Discussion followed.

Motion to approve the Public Policy Abstract passed with one abstention.

Motion to approve the Social Work Abstract by Senator Soneson; second by Senator Devlin.

A brief discussion followed.

Motion to approve the Social Work Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion by Senator Smith to divide the certificate portion from the original motion to approve the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology Abstract; second by Senator Soneson. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology abstract, excluding the certificates, passed.

Motion to table the certificate portion of the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology abstract by Senator Devlin; second by Senator Schumacher-Douglas. Motion passed.

Motion to accept the Interdisciplinary Abstract by Senator Smith; second by Senator Neuhaus.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion by Senator Schumacher-Douglas to split The Washington Center Internship Portfolio from the Global Studies Major in the Interdisciplinary Abstract; second by Senate East. Motion passed.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion to approve The Washington Center Internship Portfolio was not passed; there was one abstention.
Motion by Senator Soneson to table the Global Studies Major from the Interdisciplinary Abstract until the next meeting.

A brief discussion followed.

Second by Senator Neuhaus. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT FOR SENATOR’S REVIEW

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING
11/09/09
1670

PRESENT: Megan Balong, Maria Basom, Karen Breitbach, Gregory Bruess, Michele Devlin, Phil East, Jeffrey Funderburk, Gloria Gibson, Bev Kopper, Julie Lowell, Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure, Chris Neuhaus, Phil Patton, Michael Roth, Donna Schumacher-Douglas, Jerry Smith, Jerry Soneson, Jesse Swan, Susan Wurtz

Absent: Doug Hotek, Chuck Quirk, Katherine Van Wormer

CALL TO ORDER

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No press present.

COMMENTS FROM PROVOST GIBSON

Provost Gibson had no comments.
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COMMENTS FROM CHAIR, SUSAN WURTZ

Chair Wurtz noted that recently she had reason to look back at the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-laws and realized that these were the documents drafted by faculty in the mid-1970s. These documents are faculty governance where we say we choose to govern ourselves and here’s how we’re going to do it. This has brought fresh appreciation to the work senators are putting in, many times huge hours but it really is the process by which we say we govern ourselves.

Senator Neuhaus asked if the Senate had identified when the number of Emeritus Status requests that were docketed at the last meeting would be addressed, noting that they had been docketed in regular order.

Chair Wurtz replied that while today’s meeting is on the Senate’s regular meeting day, this meeting was identified earlier in the year to be set aside for the Curriculum Package discussion. Normal Senate business will be addressed at the next Senate meeting, next Monday, November 16.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

1002 Curriculum Package – Social and Behavioral Sciences and Interdisciplinary Proposals

Motion to docket out of regular order at the head of the docket as items #905 by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin. Motion passed.

Associate Provost Kopper laid out some of the issues that the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) dealt with this fall, some of which were unique. A summary was sent to Senators prior to today’s meeting, the UCC Summary of issues Fall 2009 Curriculum Cycle, and she noted that she wanted to update the Senate before moving on to the regular packages. In addition to the online system, several attachments were sent to senators, which she will go through.
Associate Provost Kopper stated that for this particular Curriculum Cycle there were new mandates that the Senate had passed for the UCC to consider. Because they were new, at the beginning of each UCC meeting they were reviewed. They essentially related to the fact that the UCC is not approving any new programs that exceed our standard length and identifying any prerequisites that were in programs, as well as some language relating to double counting of major and Liberal Arts Core (LAC) courses.

Following are some of the votes that were non-unanimous or that there remained unresolved concerns, which she wanted to bring to the Senate's attention.

II.a. College of Business Administration (CBA)- interdepartmental 0 credit courses.

Associate Provost Kopper noted that this will not be dealt with today but in the future in looking at CBA’s package. The UCC had extensive discussion related to what senators will find when they look at this package. Examples of 0 credit courses at other universities that are similar to the CBA’s proposal were sent to senators prior to today’s meeting. Also sent was Professional Skills Initiative Proposal where they are for credit. The UCC considered this information as they reviewed and voted on the CBA proposal. The UCC also held a special committee meeting to discuss these issues, which was approved, however there was quite extensive discussion related to it and that’s additional information for the Senate’s consideration as they review that proposal.

The Global Studies proposal is being dealt with today because it is part of the Interdisciplinary proposals. The Senate recently received a letter from Laura Terlip, College of Humanities and Fine Arts (CHFA) Senate Chair, related to this. When the UCC received this proposal they went to the College Social and Behavioral Sciences (CSBS) minutes for additional information. The CSBS had voted unanimously to strongly endorse the Global Studies major. They also went to the CHFA Senate minutes, which were not posted and requested an email from Chair Terlip. She indicated that the CHFA Senate had objected due to the language requirement and there was a comment that the major was ill conceived. When the UCC reviewed this, as standard procedure, they invited the deans and department heads related to proposal to that meeting knowing that the CHFA Senate had not endorsed
Associate Provost Kopper noted that senators also received the learning outcomes for the Global Studies major. This major was initiated prior to our online development of the consultation system; thus senators also received all of the related consultations. She noted that there is a lot of information related to the Global Studies major.

Associate Provost Kopper addressed the Health Promotions major, noting that this will not be discussed today but at a future meeting when the College of Education (COE) proposal is discussed. The UCC had quite an extensive discussion related to the Health Promotions major, in particular option IV with some exempting of students from core courses and prerequisites. The UCC actually approved this, then brought it back and rescinded it, looked at it again and finally approved it again but not unanimously.

With the Capstone course in the Interdisciplinary proposal, The Washington Center Internship, there is an unresolved concern and there is someone to speak on that here today.

Associate Provost Kopper noted that there are people present at today’s meeting that can speak to the objections of the courses that will be discussed today if senators have questions.

The Seldom/Never Offered Courses was also sent to senators. Typically when UNI has courses that are seldom or never offered after several years they are automatically dropped by the Registrar’s Office. Prior to that they are sent to their departments for review to make sure that this in fact is the way to go. The list that was sent to senators includes all the courses that are scheduled to be dropped and that have gone through this process. This is part of the procedure and they are not typically embedded in the Curriculum packages. The UCC felt that it was important to have a record of these courses. Their recommendation is when we have these courses occurring that they’re listed and put in the Curriculum packages so there is a record.

As faculty know, dropped and suspended APA courses have been coming in in an expedited manner. These are the programs that were recommended from the Academic Program Assessment (APA) process to be dropped or suspended. Some of them are embedded in the packages that the Senate will review but those programs
are still coming in. If the Senate would like, she can provide a list.

The UCC had quite a discussion throughout the semester about what to do when majors embed into their requirements, or as an elective, LAC Capstone courses. The concern was that these courses are designed to maximize their interdisciplinary nature, making sure they don’t attract students all from one major. There was discussion and in the end the UCC decided not to bring forth the recommendation but they did want to inform the Senate that they did have discussions about whether it was a good thing or not.

Associate Provost Kopper stated that senators also received a Graduate College Curriculum Committee (GCCC) proposal to change the policy on graduate credit for undergraduate students. This was also approved by the UCC. Essentially what this is is an attempt to get some consistency in our policies related to undergraduates taking courses for graduate credit.

Associate Provost Kopper noted the amount of work that Coleen Wagner, Secretary, Barbara Cutter, Administrative Fellow both from the Executive Vice President and Provost’s Office, as well as Diane Wallace, Assistant Registrar, and every single person on the UCC did. This was a tremendous amount of work involving many, many hours. She thanked them all for all their hard work and noted that Shoshanna Coon, Chair of the GCCC, would also echo that for the GCCC, as well. It has been a difficult semester in that they lost several meetings and also had to deal with the APA recommendations.

Chair Wurtz asked who would be speaking for the UCC and bringing this to the Senate.

Associate Provost Kopper replied that typically it is handed over to the Chair of the Senate. All individuals relative to the proposals have been invited to the Senate meetings.

It is noted that the Senate had viewing access today to the Curriculum Packages abstracts via computer and projector.

Motion to accept the Design, Textiles and Gerontology, and Family Studies Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin. The Senate would be accepting changes in names and descriptions.
Senator Schumacher-Douglas asked if there were any controversies or programs relating to this that are part of the APA recommendations to be dropped.

Associate Provost Kopper replied that there are not. She also noted that in the abstracts are both the undergraduate and graduate changes. The UCC only looks at the “g” level courses; the GCCC looks at the other issues.

Chair Wurtz reiterated that the proposal before the Senate has been approved by the UCC and the GCCC.

Motion to accept passed.

Motion to approve the Geography Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Neuhaus.

Dr. Siobhan Morgan, College of Natural Sciences, noted that the Bachelor of Science Degree in Geographic Information Science (GIS) was previously listed as Bachelor of Arts and asked for clarification.

Senator Smith commented that all the documentation is Bachelor of Science and the program is longer than 120 hours, which led him to believe it is a Bachelor of Science degree.

Dr. Barbara Cutter responded that this is a new program and the idea is to get this running and then they may phase out the Bachelor of Arts but right now they will have both.

Senator Soneson asked, as this is new program, how many hours are involved?

Dr. Cutter responded that 56 hours are required, which are within standard programming.

Senator Soneson asked if this will require new faculty?

Dean Philip Mauceri, CSBS, replied that no new faculty would be needed for this new major, and noted that it will be the only undergraduate GIS major in the state.

Senator Smith noted that he worked on the APA Task Force and that the Geography Department had an excellent self-study report, with a number of different undergraduate majors and minors but they are not high enrollment programs. Graduation
rates are typically about 4 per year in three different majors. Class sizes are also small, about 10 to 15 students. In the budgetary situation we’re today where he hears that LAC courses can’t be staffed it bothers him a bit that this department is adding five new courses, a new major, a new emphasis, which may be replacing things. He’s also aware that GIS is an important new field but it bothers him a lot that we’re putting more stuff into what has traditionally been a low enrollment department, with low enrollment majors. We’re doing this at the expense of other things on this campus. He’s not saying that he opposes this but he’s very much bothered by it.

Senator Schumacher-Douglas asked what the discussion at the UCC was.

Dr. Cutter referred to the minutes from the UCC meeting, noting that the head of the Geography Department (Dr. Patrick Pease) was asked if his department meets existing demands, and he indicated that the GIS program can sometimes be problematic in the electives category in adding new courses and these new proposed courses will relieve this pressure. He also stated “it has been the recommendation of the department’s last two academic program reviews that the current courses in GIS and certificate be developed into a B.S. degree program.” They’re expecting that demand will increase and they’re working on an articulation agreement with Kirkwood Community College for the GIS program, with Kirkwood brining students to campus.

Senator Devlin asked when the B.A. degree be phased out?

Dr. Cutter responded that she’s not sure. Her understanding was that there was no specific date, and it was a matter of getting the new program off the ground.

Senator Soneson asked why wasn’t the B.A. dropped with this proposal? They will have two programs now, both weak, divided among students. If they’re going to introduce a new pre-professional program wouldn’t it make sense to drop the other at the same time?

Dr. Morgan replied that currently the B.A. in GIS emphasis program has 18 majors. It is the largest major and has been since it was introduced in 2004.

Senator Soneson remarked that they then intend to drop the B.A.
Dr. Cutter replied that in the minutes from the UCC meeting it states that the GIS area is moving toward a B.S. but the department would like to keep both degrees in GIS for two years and review the numbers again after that time.

Senator Smith commented that the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) has a lot of programs that have both B.A. and B.S. degrees, such as Chemistry and Physics. He suspects that this will end up being the same kind of thing. The justification for that is that both programs use essentially the same courses, with the B.S. requiring a couple more technical courses. The argument could be made that having the two programs in parallel doesn’t really cost anything more, and there is some legitimacy to that. On the other hand, we end up having a lot of programs. There are a lot of departments with small majors and many programs and it bothers certain minds like his that we have a lot of programs with not a lot of students. While the GIS is a program where the justification can be made in terms of the technology and outside demand, his concern is that he sees us expanding programs. Two years ago when we went through this we added everything without looking or critiquing. He hopes now that we will be more critical and this deserves some assessment.

Diane Wallace commented that for Fall 2009 there are 24 students enrolled in the GIS emphasis.

Senator East stated that it was his understanding that with B.S. programs there was a general rule or expectation that there were research requirements and he doesn’t see one in this B.S. program.

Dr. Morgan replied that there is, 970:193 Research Experience in Geography, which is a required course.

Senator Neuhaus noted that he has worked with a lot of people in the major and it is pretty research intensive. The only concern he has is that he doesn’t know many people in the Geography Department with really strong backgrounds in GIS. There’s always the concern that you would lose your GIS professor every couple of years because someone would offer him more money and they’d leave. His hope is that we have a couple of other professors with those skills as it’s a precarious thing to just balance it off one professor.

Dean Mauceri responded that there are at least three people in the department that have the GIS background.
Senator East stated that it is his understanding that deans are required to sign off on resource requirements for new courses and programs. Did someone sign off and say that the plan for resources needed for these five new courses and new programs is acceptable?

Dean Mauceri replied that he began as Dean July 1st so he was not involved in that process but he does trust his predecessor, John Johnson, who did sign off with his judgment and will stand by his judgment.

Motion to approve the Geography Abstract passed.

Chair Wurtz noted that the next item is the History Abstract and asked if there is anything in the UCC’s deliberations that the Senate should be aware of.

Associate Provost Kopper responded that there was not but embedded in this abstract are several programs that were recommended to be dropped or suspended through the APA process.

Motion to approve the History Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

Senator East asked if it was just two new courses and some changes?

Associate Provost Kopper noted that one of the new courses, Sacred Space, is a Capstone course.

Senator Smith asked the difference between the dropped courses and those that are suspended?

Associate Provost Kopper replied that if students are in a program that program cannot be dropped; it must be suspended so we can honor our commitment to those students to graduate. Another reason for suspending a course or program is if a department has any inkling that they might want to offer it in the future they should suspend because once it is dropped if they choose to bring it back they must do so as a new program.

Senator Basom asked if they were still making changes because what she had earlier read is different than what’s being shown now.

Coleen Wagner responded that there were recent changes.
Associate Provost Kopper remarked that these courses, and changes, are coming in daily, hourly. Everyone is doing their best to try to stay on top of things.

Senator Soneson reviewed the History Abstract, noting two additional courses, and asked if there was anything else.

Dr. Coon, GCCC, noted there is also a restatement of the Master of Arts Degree Program, which primarily was to add a B.A./M.A. component, waiting on the graduate credit for undergraduates’ policy.

Senator Soneson reiterated that it’s an M.A. proposal.

Dr. Coon clarified that it’s an M.A. restatement.

Senator East asked about resources.

Dean Mauceri noted that this also was approved by his predecessor, John Johnson, and will stand by his judgment.

Senator East asked how two new courses could not involve any new resources?

Dean Mauceri responded that those courses had been offered as experimental courses.

Vice Chair Mvuyekure commented on some of the suspended courses that could have helped us achieve our goals of diversity, specifically American Studies Major, Asian Studies Major and European Studies Major.

Senator Bruess responded that that would be addressed in the Interdisciplinary portion with the Global Studies Major.

Dr. Konrad Sadkowski, History, agreed with Senator Bruess, noting that three majors have been eliminated but much of that content, if not all, is now included in the Global Studies proposal.

Senator Funderburk asked about the number of students in those suspended programs?

It was reported that those are programs with low numbers or no students in them.
Senator Smith noted that the American Studies Major, the numbers he has from 2004 indicate there were no graduates, agreeing that these are low or no enrollment programs.

Chair Wurtz remarked that while these courses could have achieved the diversity objective, the fact is they didn't.

Motion to approve the History Abstract passed.

Chair Wurtz noted that the next item is the Political Science Abstract and asked if there is anything in the UCC's deliberations that the Senate should be aware of.

Associate Provost Kopper stated that there are new courses, some dropped courses, some description changes, as well as a restatement of majors and a few suspended programs that came about as a result of the APA, and a restatement of a minor.

Motion to approve the Political Science Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

Senator Soneson asked if the restatement include an increase in the number of hours?

Dr. Michael Licari, Department Head, Political Science, responded that no, it does not.

Senator Smith asked about the four new courses, are there staff to teach them? Noting that Political Science is always pressed to provide staff for LAC courses.

Dr. Licari responded that they do provide staff for LAC courses and yes; they do have staff for the new courses as they have been taught as experimental courses. They’re more balanced between the new and the dropped courses.

Motion to approve the Political Science Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the Psychology Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

Associate Provost Kopper noted that with this abstract there are a variety of changes in descriptions of courses, there’s a certificate that’s being dropped as a result of the APA recommendation, and a restatement of major.
Senator Soneson asked if the restatement includes an increase in the number of hours?

Dr. Cutter replied that it did not.

Motion to approve the Psychology Abstract passed.

Motion to approve the Public Policy Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

Because this is a Masters program Dr. Coon addressed the Senate’s questions and concerns. She noted that the Masters of Public Policy is being restated, as the intent is to define two distinct tracks in the program in terms of getting into the program. There is an accelerated entry tract that undergraduates here take and then there are students that come here from other institutions that start the Master of Public Policy straight up from the beginning. The main intent of the restatement was to make those tracts distinct and clear.

Senator Smith noted that as best as he can tell no one’s graduated with an accelerated Master of Public Policy degree. Is this something we should be doing? Is there a demand for this? Are the changes that are being made intended to attract some people into the program? Why shouldn’t this just be dropped?

Dr. Coon replied that it isn’t a separate program; there is only one Master of Public Policy degree.

Senator Smith noted that it’s listed as a separate Accelerated Master of Public Policy Program.

Diane Wallace stated that it’s not coded any differently. Pam MacKay, Registrar’s Office, tracks it differently so it’s still under Public Policy.

Senator Smith asked if we actually have students in the Accelerated Program?

Ms. Wallace responded that it is her understanding that we do because this change is at the request of Pam MacKay that this restatement take place to portray that there are two different number of hour programs involved.
Dr. Coon commented that the Accelerated track basically involves students taking courses as seniors and then the requirements for those courses are waived in the degree and the number of hours for the degree reduced, but not below the 30 minimum. The full program for students coming from another university is about 45 hours. The reduction is from 45 down to about 33 hours.

Chair Wurtz asked that when the Senate poses questions with data driven answers, do we have access to that data?

Senator Smith replied that he’s not sure if faculty in general have access to the heart of the APA website where that information is.

A brief discussion followed as to where data could be found and it was noted that the Institutional Research website has data but not for 2009.

Senator Smith noted that on the APA report it’s listed as a separate degree, and if it’s not, it’s just a way of getting into the program. He doesn’t have any objections at all to it, as it’s just an administrative process.

Dr. Coon stated that the requirements are the same regardless of how you get into the degree; some are done while the student is still an undergraduate.

Dr. Morgan noted that all of the APA data is from Fall 2008 or Spring 2009, and does not include any Fall 2009 data.

Senator Soneson asked if the GPA entrance requirement is indeed only 3.0?

Dr. Coon replied that that is standard for many graduate programs on campus.

Senator Soneson noted that 3.0 is an average grade at UNI.

Dr. Coon responded that that is the minimum GPA to be maintained in a graduate program.

Senator Soneson asked what if we were to raise it to 3.5?

Dr. Coon replied that it would strongly affect graduate admissions.

Senator Soneson asked if that would be a bad thing?
Dr. Coon noted that she doesn’t know, just that it would affect graduate admissions.

Chair Wurtz interjected that we cannot micromanage, this is the report that was brought to the Senate and we either approve it or not approve it. However, that is a good point because it might cause someone to say they won’t approve it.

Motion to approve the Public Policy Abstract passed with one abstention.

Associate Provost Kopper noted that in Social Work Abstract there are only two dropped courses.

Motion to approve the Social Work Abstract by Senator Soneson; second by Senator Devlin.

Dr. Morgan noted that both of these dropped courses are LAC courses that are in Category 5C and are not being offered.

Senator East asked when they were approved as LAC courses?

Dr. Morgan replied “ancient.”

Associate Provost Kopper commented that she believed they were approved when Aaron Podolefsky was Dean of CSBS.

Motion to approve the Social Work Abstract passed.

Associate Provost Kopper noted that with the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology Abstract there are new courses, change in descriptions, dropped courses, a few new certificates, a couple of programs that were dropped as a result of the APA recommendations, graduate issues that Dr. Coon will speak on, and restatement of majors.

Motion to approve the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology Abstract by Senator Bruess; second by Senator Devlin.

Dr. Coon stated that there are two new 200: level courses and restatements of the MA in Criminology and in Sociology.

Senator Smith noted his concern with adding new courses as well as new certificates. What was the rational for adding new
certificates? One of the things that the APA Task Force encountered were lots of certificates that seemed to have no particular function and very often had very little or no enrollment. On the other hand, there were some certificates that clearly served a useful function, such as certificate in Social Work, which is a very valuable professional credential. What’s the rational for the three certificates, Certificate in Sociology of Family and Life Course, Certificate in Sociology of Gender and Culture, and Certificate in Sociology of Race/Ethnicity and Immigration? Do these have some professional status? Do they have some career standing? Do they do something beyond give students a piece of paper for taking a few courses?

Dr. Cutter responded that she could speak on the way the department head addressed that. The first thing that is relevant about the certificates is that there used to be one certificate with four different tracts, which they changed to four separate certificates. It’s the same set of course offerings, which is why it’s three new certificates and a restatement of one. Dr. Kent Sandstrom, Department Head, Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology, said that the change in title would allow the certificates to be much more identifiable to employers and also easier to understand, and clearly identifiable to students that who want to take them. The intent behind this is to take existing certificates and make them more appealing and more identifiable to students.

Senator Smith asked what the parent certificate was that’s being changed?

Dr. Cutter replied that it used to be called Certificate in Social Identities, Inequalities, and Intersectionalities.

Senator Smith asked about student enrollment, how many of those certificates were granted in recent years?

Dr. Cutter responded that she doesn’t have that information.

Ms. Wallace noted that it is a fairly new certificate within the last 3 or 4 years. There is no way of tracking the enrollment currently as they don’t know until the department informs them as to who has satisfied the requirements.

Senator Smith reiterated that the parent certificate is relatively new and there’s no track record and now they want to break it down into four certificates. This bothers him. It
seems to him that we’re proliferating all sorts of paper degrees and credentials without any evidence that students particularly care about the credentials or that employers or other stakeholders are really that concerned about this. It bothers him and he doesn’t think we should be doing that. We have too many degrees and certificates on this campus the way it is and he doesn’t think we should be adding more without a strong rationale.

Senator Neuhaus noted that he disagrees. He believes that there is a lot out there that talks about personalizing education, being able to do something that is uniquely your own. We’re not changing the number of professors, we simply changing the “font types on the printer” and he doesn’t think that’s a huge expense. This is simply a matter of saying let’s have students feel a little more ownership of the program they’re in rather than be something with an extremely long title.

Senator Smith asked what should be the standards or criteria for having a certificate? We know when we add a major or a minor that it has to have weights of substance to do that. The more credentials you have in some sense the cheaper any of them are. He doesn’t agree with the idea of putting out lots of certificates and lots credentials unless there’s a strong rational, the job market or some professional society or some other kind of thing that warrants that, he just can’t see doing it for the sake of giving students another credential they can point to.

Chair Wurtz noted that Senator Smith is heading us towards potentially approving part of this, procedurally; is that an option for us?

Senator East commented that the Senate would have to amend the package, indicating what we approve, what we disapprove.

Senator Schumacher-Douglas stated that the Senate might want to have more information before we decide. She’d like to hear justification and if there are or have been any numbers in the parent certificate, and how many have been issued in the past three years. She’d like that information before saying “no” outright.

Senator Devlin remarked that she agrees with Senator Schumacher-Douglas, and also from the professional standpoint, in her field of multicultural health and immigration types of things, it
would help to have two of those certificates, one that says “gender and culture” and the other with “race and immigration.”

Chair Wurtz stated that we seem to be raising questions that could be answered with data. In the UCC deliberations, were these questions also raised?

Dr. Cutter responded that there were no questions raised about the number of enrollments for the certificates because the UCC was not seeing this as a resource issue as the certificates are already being offered. It was a clarification issue making the certificates easier to understand, more appealing to students and attracting students from other majors.

Chair Wurtz continued that if the Senate wants to do the work of the UCC then we need to disband the UCC, but we can’t go back and second-guess the UCC. However, the Senate is the final oversight and we should be very much aware of that.

Chair Wurtz asked if the data the Senate is seeking, would it be accessible for the next meeting, Monday, November 16?

Senator Neuhaus suggested inviting a couple of the people involved with this. Perhaps we need information on why this will work and why the other is not working. It sounds like this program is still in its infancy so maybe we won’t get data just yet but perhaps maybe some of the people involved are aware of trends nationally or in other graduate programs.

Senator Smith stated that he would like to see data. If you don’t like the name, change the name but don’t change it into three until you have evidence that there’s enough demand for the one that you’re starting out with. If you don’t have that then he doesn’t think it should be turned into three. He also would like to see data and a better rational.

Senator Breitbach noted that it is her belief that there were always four certificates with a global title and then track one, track two, so on. Rather than naming them “Track One” with a subtitle, they’re simply making them clearer to understand by giving them a title.

Dr. Cutter reiterated that it was one certificate with four tracks.

Senator Smith noted that the “always” was only within the last couple of years, and that’s the concern.
Senator Lowell stated that we should make the decision to get the people in here who can speak to this.

Dr. Xavier Escandell, Sociology, noted that this resulted from a conversation they had to create a little bit of a different dynamic within the measure to make it more marketable. As a unit they fully support this initiative and the data shows an increased trend towards higher enrollments. He believes it’s a great initiative and that the Sociology Department will support this as well.

Motion by Senator Smith to divide the certificate portion from the original motion to approve the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology Abstract; second by Senator Soneson. Motion passed.

Chair Wurtz noted that the Senate now has two Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology Abstract packets before them. Going back to the original Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology Abstract without the certificates, were there any additional discussion?

Senator East asked about resources.

Dean Mauceri noted that this also was approved by his predecessor, John Johnson, and will stand by his judgment.

Dr. Cutter commented, noting that one of the new courses, 990:120g, is not actually new, it is the same as 980:120g. It is just being listed in a new department.

Dr. Coon stated that one of the new graduate courses is simply a use of the common course number :285 Readings in Criminology, which is something that is not regularly offered but available on a demand basis. The other new graduate course is a Proseminar in Criminology, professional development, as it was felt that more professional development activity was needed to prepare students for work after earning their degree.

Dr. Cutter noted that one class is also being dropped.

Motion to approve the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology abstract, excluding the certificates, passed.

Motion to table the certificate portion of the Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology abstract by Senator Devlin; second by Senator Schumacher-Douglas. Motion passed.
Associate Provost Kopper noted that in the Interdisciplinary Abstract there is a new Capstone course, CAP:1XX, and a new major, Global Studies. With the new Capstone course there remains an unresolved objection and there are people present today to speak to this. Dr. Morgan can speak as to the new Capstone course; Dr. Licari, Political Science, can speak to the unresolved objection.

Motion to accept the Interdisciplinary Abstract by Senator Smith; second by Senator Neuhaus.

Beginning with the new Capstone course, Dr. Morgan stated that this is an internship program where students go mainly to Washington D.C. and are involved in a wide range of activities while they are there which include academic courses, and working at an internship in a variety of places. This has been going on for a few years and has had students from every college involved. To get this as a single course they have a common set of requirements for students to received credit, which is graded by a UNI faculty member. They also decided that they needed a standardized system to measure their achievements and decided a portfolio system was very specific and the things to include in the portfolio, which would be evaluated by a UNI faculty member.

Senator East asked what the academic experience is?

Dr. Morgan replied that students take a course in Washington D.C. at a university with someone who may or may not be a professor; it might be a congressman who teaches courses, or people such as that. This changes year to year. It is an academic area course on some area involved with leadership, government.

In response to Dr. East’s question as to what university, Dr. Morgan noted that there is no one university, there are several that participate. There are also non-academic people teaching courses on leadership, government, topics dealing with law, and it changes year to year.

Senator East stated that it is really nebulous. Does this course meet a specific number of times? What do we know about this besides students take some course?

Dr. Morgan replied that it’s usually a three-credit course; it can be longer.
Senator East continued this is the kind of question that the LAC ought to have established, what’s the academic content of this course?

Dr. Michael Licari, Department Head, Political Science, stated that he doesn’t have a problem with the Washington Center experience as they’ve had a number of students participate in the past few years. This is a good experience and the students normally receive Capstone credit for the course they take there. The Political Science Department will also give internship credit to students participating as long as they meet the Political Science internship requirements, not just the Washington Center requirements. The current proposal is problematic in that what’s being proposed is to still count 3 hours course credits plus whatever credit they might get for the internship and an additional credit for Capstone, which is triggered by the portfolio. The portfolio is not very impressive, and is simply a byproduct of the class they take and the internship they complete, and is of no value as a standard of assessment. As a stand alone, this doesn’t fly and is really a byproduct of work the student is already accomplishing which they are already getting credit for. He doesn’t see the purpose of expanding this. What he sees is a degradation of the rigor of the Capstone experience to give someone credit for turning in a project at the end of class as a kin to giving someone 3 hours credits for just showing up to class.

Dr. Laura Terlip, Communication Studies, Chair, CHFA Senate, noted that she’s supervised students that participated in the Washington Center Internship. It is a wonderful program but they did similar kinds of things in that they did an internship portfolio, but they still had to write papers and do a number of other things to get internship credit for Communication Studies. She supports this if the only credit students get for that experience is this two credits, but it they’re also getting course work in other kinds of things then it’s problematic.

Senator Soneson reiterated that the two hours are in addition to credits for the academic course and as well as credits for the internship itself. It’s quite unclear what the two extra credits are for?

Senator Smith asked if this isn’t approved are students still going to be able to take the Washington Center Internship as a Capstone?
Dr. Licari replied that they have counted it as a 3-credit course in the past as Capstone credit, LAC Capstone.

Dr. Morgan noted that if the Senate doesn’t approve it then it won’t be approved as Capstone. It’s currently an internship program that exists here at UNI for credit. What this proposal is for is that if a student goes to the Washington Center and does 6 hours of credit, which is the most common number of hours students enroll for, 2 of those hours of credit can apply to Capstone, with 4 hours those hours being applied to the student’s major.

Senator Smith stated that they are not talking about an extra credit situation; it’s double dipping.

Dr. Morgan responded not necessarily because there was a guideline added that if it counts for their major, their major may not allow it to count for LAC Capstone.

Motion by Senator Schumacher-Douglas to split The Washington Center Internship Portfolio from the Global Studies Major in the Interdisciplinary Abstract; second by Senate East. Motion passed.

Senator East reiterated that students take this course in Washington for credit and transfer that academic credit back to UNI?

Dr. Morgan reported that students take a seminar course, which is the two-week equivalent of 3-4 credits. This involves lectures, site visits, tours, special events and the credit is not assigned by the institution in Washington, who then send their recommendation back to UNI to decide what credit or grade students will receive. All grade assignments are done at UNI by the supervisor for that experience. A portfolio is required to show what students have done and the UNI supervisor will then assign the grade. The Washington Center does not assign grades.

Senator Smith asked if the Senate does not approve this, would students be able to use this experience to satisfy their Capstone requirement?

Dr. Morgan responded that no, they would not be able to use it to satisfy their LAC Capstone requirement.
Senator Smith reiterated that students might be able to get some credit from their departments under other kinds of things but not for Capstone.

Senator Schumacher-Douglas stated that she has concerns with the idea of “Portfolio” in the title and that usually there’s a more conceptual piece or a course rather than a product. It doesn’t seem well written or put forth well. What is the course number that is being used for the other credit that students receive, or is it “experimental”?

Dr. Licari noted that in Political Science students would receive 3 credits of LAC Capstone and 4-8 credits, depending on how many hours they work at the internship, which is how they normally do this, prorated by hours worked. The most hours a student could receive are 8 credit hours for internship and 3 credit hours applied to LAC Capstone. That’s the way it’s always worked.

Senator Schumacher-Douglas asked how many hours students typically work?

Dr. Licari replied it’s hundreds; 360 hours work for 8 hours credit. Academic components for the Political Science internship include weekly short papers and a final project based on the work they do, usually in the form of research.

Dr. Terlip stated that they do a very similar type of thing in Communication Studies, where students receive internship credit based on their standard intern requirements. Students have to work so many hours for each credit hour plus they write extra papers. They also require supervisory evaluations from the sites that students work at. They might, depending on the subject, be able to receive academic credit that is not Capstone credit.

Senator East urged the Senate to not approve this course because it appears to him to lack any kind of definition and there’s very little control over what is taught, there is no quality assurance that he can see, and he doesn’t see any guidelines that say how the LAC committee or anyone else is going to supervise this in any kind of consistent way. He recommends the Senate not approve this.

Senator Basom clarified with Dr. Licari that Political Science students receive LAC Capstone credit for the course they do for this internship.
Dr. Licari responded that this is how they’ve arranged it.

Senator Basom asked if all Political Science students that participate in this internship all receive Capstone credit?

Dr. Licari replied that they have in the past.

Senator Basom continued that part of the motivation for this was to allow students to participate in the internship and receive Capstone credit for a portion of the internship. There was discussion as to which portion they should give it for. An idea may be to allow students to use the course, and would they have to petition or do special requests because possibly not every course is appropriate, or did they find that all courses are appropriate?

Dr. Licari commented that obviously the courses that Political Science students take vary and they decide this case by case.

Chair Wurtz reminded the Senate that they can’t rewrite the proposal.

Senator Basom noted that that is not what she’s suggesting; she’s trying to clarify because it’s confusing as to what is the internship part and what is the course part.

Dr. Licari reiterated that there is a class that students take in Washington, which they receive the Capstone credit for. And students receive internship credit for work performed there.

Dr. Morgan offered for clarification, the reason this proposal is in this format as a portfolio was because they were aware some academic units were using the Washington Center course component as their own major component. That would involve making that course an LAC course, which they don’t feel would be appropriate. They wanted to have a consistent way of measuring the students’ work and they’ve defined the requirements for the portfolio, what they need to turn in is something that’s consistent regardless of how many credits they registered for at the Washington Center, regardless of whether or not some of those credits go for major credit or as electives, and that’s why it’s in this form and not tied into a specific class which may be a majors class.

Senator Soneson stated that this is very confusing. If, as a Political Science Student, he gets 3 credits of academic work
and 3 credits of internship for a total of 6 credits. Will he get 2 additional credits for turning in stuff for that, or will 2 of those 3 credits for academic be counted for Capstone requirements?

Dr. Morgan replied that it would come out of the 6 credits.

Senator Soneson asked if it would double-dip?

Dr. Morgan replied, that yes, it would.

Senator Soneson continued, asking who would make the judgment about whether the academic work was sufficient?

Dr. Morgan responded that it would be the UNI supervisor. Students usually sign up with a supervisor, someone in their major or their advisor or someone in the department and familiar with that area of internship.

Senator Soneson asked if there are criteria laid out for what’s expected for 2 credits?

Dr. Morgan replied that yes, in the proposal.

Senator Smith stated that he shares Senator Soneson’s confusion on this. If this is not approved, then is it the case that Political Science will not be able to give Capstone credit to students enrolling in this internship?

Dr. Morgan replied that that is correct.

Dr. Licari responded that Political Science does not use their internship credit for Capstone anyway; they separate them out. There’s up to 8 credits that students earn for their internship while in Washington and the side class that students take while they’re there is what they allow for Capstone.

Senator Smith confirmed then that students from Political Science could get enough credit for the work they do from the Political Science department to reflect their work. What about students from other departments, and not from Communication Studies? If this isn’t passed and those students do the Washington Center Internship, what do they get?

Dr. Morgan replied that they receive electives.
Senator Smith reiterated that it could be elective credit at the most; they could not use it as Capstone.

Dr. Morgan responded that they might be able to use it for something within their major.

Senator East stated he doesn’t understand how students can get Capstone credit any way other than a student request because it’s not part of the LAC program.

Dr. Licari added that student’s petition in.

Senator East continued that any student on this campus could petition for Capstone for this experience, if supervised and approved by their department. Therefore, we’re not excluding anybody and they are not getting anything special. Everything a student does has to count for Capstone credit.

Motion to approve The Washington Center Internship Portfolio was not passed; there was one abstention.

Motion by Senator Soneson to table the Global Studies Major from the Interdisciplinary Abstract until the next meeting.

Senator Neuhaus asked if some of this could be dealt with a one of the regular Senate meeting, as we’re falling behind?

Chair Wurtz responded that yes, the Senate could address this at the next regular meeting, which will be next Monday, November 16.

Second by Senator Neuhaus. Motion passed.

Associate Provost Kopper noted her concern about the fact that there are two meetings scheduled for curriculum discussion and there are 4 full college proposals yet, plus the proposals related to the other issues. She’s not sure the Senate will get through all of this along with the two tabled items from today in two meetings, judging from today’s discussion. She anticipates that the Senate will need an additional meeting.

Chair Wurtz reviewed the options, noting that the Senate will be meeting next Monday, November 16 for regular Senate discussion. The Senate will not meet November 23, as that is Thanksgiving Break. The Senate is already scheduled to meet on November 30
and December 7. Senate would normally meet December 14 but we decided not to as that is finals week. If we believe we cannot get everything done then the Senate needs to plan on meeting November 16 for curriculum discussion. Discussion followed.

Dr. Terlip noted that the CHFA and other college senates meet next Monday so many of those that are here today will not be able to be both places.

Chair Wurtz stated that the Senate will be meeting Monday, November 16, November 30 and December 7. If needed, we can schedule an additional meeting for December 14.

Senator Schumacher-Douglas suggested adding the Monday, December 14 meeting.

Motion by Senator Bruess to adjourn; second by Senator Soneson. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Snowden
Faculty Senate Secretary