

# Illinois Wesleyan University Faculty Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2016

Meeting convened at 4:05 pm

A quorum was present.

## **Summary of action taken**

ENST 200 was pulled from the consent agenda. An amendment was proposed to remove FR from the course. The amendment failed, and the course passed.

## **Meeting description**

Approval of minutes of September meeting

Minutes **approved**.

## **Consent Agenda**

The chair of CC noted that ENST 231 had a modified description.

ENST 200 was removed from the consent agenda.

## **Committee reports**

### CUPP (Prof. Sullivan)

There was a faculty question on signature work. The chair noted that CUPP had talked to the President on this issue. The President noted departments are acting, with motivation from Provost's office, to implement signature work programs. Have received 16 signature work proposals so far (about half).

### Curriculum Council (Prof. Anderson)

Discussion on ENST 200. Was passed unanimously by CC. Course description: course uses GIS, which is a software tool that uses a formal system of coordinates to map the globe. Will have a strong emphasis on using the formal system to solve problems, and understanding why we use some conventions for coordinate systems and not others. A benefit of having FR will be to broaden course offerings for students.

**Motion** to amend to remove formal reasoning.

Discussion on the motion revolved around the definition of formal reasoning, and whether modeling with GIS fit the definition of formal reasoning.

In support of ENST 200 retaining formal reasoning, it was noted that GIS is an abstraction of the physical world. A street is physical reality, while a computer model is an abstraction. One simply can't use the tool blindly, but rather must understand the model deeply in order to use it properly. GIS is a formal system that is used to solve problems; it requires critical thinking to determine what can be done with the data on hand.

In support of the motion to remove FR: formal reasoning requires reasoning within the formal system (often starting from definitions and axioms), and not only using

the formal system to solve problems. If GIS is the formal system and it is used mechanically then that would not be sufficient. The physical sciences include a lot of modeling and a lot of mathematics, but don't typically view themselves as doing formal reasoning. If an abstract symbolic representation is sufficient, then music and accounting should count as formal reasoning. Formal reasoning is reasoning with the underlying patterns, rather than with particular symbols.

Vote on motion to amend: 31 – 36. Amendment **failed**. Course retains FR.

Vote on the course itself: 58 – 7. **Passed**

Nominating Committee (Prof. Perera)

No new business, no questions.

FDC (Prof. Ponce)

No questions.

Gen Ed Task Force (Prof. Schultz)

Faculty are encouraged to attend town hall meetings on October 17 and 18.

## **Administrative reports**

President Jensen

The president introduced Leanne Hughes, the new VP for enrollment and marketing. She said that faculty create energy in the classroom and encouraged faculty to pass on marketing suggestions to her office. Her primary objective is to develop the IWU brand in a clear, precise way.

Accreditation is ongoing; thanks in particular to Michael Thompson and Jenny Hand. Faculty open forums were lightly attended, perhaps partly due to the low-key faculty invitation. This was commented on by the accreditors; it was made clear to them that the faculty are an active group. The exit interview was not notable in any way, look for a draft report in 2-3 weeks.

President's advisory council has met. There are three faculty representatives. A tuition recommendation for next year was agreed upon and will be presented to the board of trustees.

The President's goals are to work on increasing revenue, start planning for the next capital campaign, and increasing diversity in the student body and among faculty/staff.

Next fiscal year has a projected deficit. Closing this deficit might require an endowment draw. Board of trustees will want a plan to ensure this is temporary, and assurance that faculty support the plan. Important to work on this together, most notably on the President's advisory council.

In response to a question the President, Provost confirmed that in their view the primary reasons for soft attendance at accreditation open forums was the soft sell together with unfamiliarity with the new accreditation schedule.

Question: will the faculty vote on signature work? Answer: in most departments examples already exist; there is no need to have a uniform signature work program. Goal

is to have more signature work, and if the work is department/program driven there might not need to be a faculty vote. The President supports traditional research honors, and encourages the faculty to find nontraditional ways to create similar experiences so that more students can benefit from a signature experience. In response to the concern that the desire for positions will create the appearance of bribery, the President disagreed, asking that we bring personal attention to bear to create an experience that other institutions cannot match.

#### Provost Green

The Provost noted that the Teaching and Learning section of our strategic plan (IWU 2020) includes an expansion of independent work, where appropriate as capstone courses. So an expansion of signature work is compatible with the strategic plan.

On the 21 and 28 of October will be lunch-time discussions with prospective students. Possibly more in November. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

Provost Green will miss the November meeting due to conference attendance. Will submit a written report.

Midterm grades are due the Friday after the meeting. Please use the student of concern form.

#### **Announcements**

Asia internship. Hart career center. Deadline is January 30; faculty are encouraged to share with their advisees.

Meeting **adjourned** at 5:20 pm

Andrew Shallue  
Faculty secretary for the day