

KANSAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Institutional Direction Committee Meeting

October 28, 2019

IDC is under the expectation of keeping confidentiality about necessary candid conversations to carry out the charge for this committee.

Minutes

Present: Dr. Matt Thompson (Chair), Dr. Bill Backlin, CFO Rhonda Bethe, Dr. Dorothy Hanna, Dr. Paul Hedlund, Dr. Steve Hoekstra (by phone), Dir. Janeane Houchin, Dr. Damon Kraft, Head Coach Anthony Monson, Prof. Barbara Marshall Nickell, Dir. Bryan McCullar, Dir. Ken Oliver, Dr. Melanie Overton, Dr. Kristy Rodriguez, EAP Jan Shirk, Dir. John Swagerty.

Absent: VP Bridget Weiser.

Call to Order: Dr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and Dir. Janeane Houchin offered the opening prayer.

Confidentiality Reminder: Dr. Thompson reiterated that what is discussed in these IDC meetings is confidential.

Academic Program Prioritization Discussion.

DC chairs were asked to look at their areas regarding majors that are large, possibilities for combining, and how many unique courses there are, if any. Unique refers to those courses necessary to sustain the major and not offered elsewhere.

Nursing and Health Sciences – Janeane Houchin

- Nursing: 60 credit hours in nursing major are all unique, junior and senior year.
- Sports and Exercise Science: No unique courses, all cross over to other majors.
- Health Sciences: 8 credit hours are unique.
- Health and Physical Ed: 11 credit hours are unique, including 8 one-credit-hour coaching courses.
- Sports Management: 5 credit hours are unique, spread over 2 courses.

Humanities and Teacher Ed – Kristy Rodriguez

- Professional Ed courses: 28 credit hours are unique.
- English: 3 credit hours are unique.
- English Ed: 2 credit hours are unique.
- History Ed: no unique credit hours.

Fine Arts – Barbara Marshall Nickell

- Art and Design: 49-51 total credit hours.
- Graphic arts: 54 total credit hours.
- Communication in Arts: changed from 3 to 4 credit hours.
Marketing and Communications – brief discussion about students having less access to just taking this class. Could we use a lab concept? Barbara thinks this could work, but the Art Faculty are not in favor of this. Fridays could be used by faculty for working on their projects, if not out recruiting.
- Methods: Barbara suggested we use our students doing a practicum to install displays in the Gallery, instead of hiring an outside person to do this. This topic is worthy of follow up discussion.
- Communication: 46 credit hours, 1 is unique.
- PR: 46 credit hours, but too many are duplication.
Our degree is an ever changing, and now more of a media centered one. English teachers for example, could benefit from learning how to work with digital media. Suggestion is to combine, to have Communication major with PR emphasis, or with Media emphasis.
- Theater: 35 credit hours; 1 (film) crosses over with theatre.

Some stand-alone courses are Arts Mgmt., Tech, Design, History and Literature.

- Dance: 8 credit hours.
- Music Ed: 65 credit hours. In Kansas you get certified in both band and vocal.
- Music Performance: 58 credit hours, no unique ones.
- Music Theatre: 61 credit hours.

Need to scale back Music Theatre and move to a track for Theatre. Or it was suggested we could move Theatre and extend Music Performance program. Barbara would like to have the time to examine what other schools are doing.

Kristy wants to look at the many individual activities/events that Music Performance requires. We have one quartet class for 2 hours. What does it do to advance the music education for the students? Milt Allen needs to be in on this conversation. Music Ed at KWU is seen as a top program by graduates; they are well-qualified and prepared.

Using adjuncts to teach Liberal Studies for music has the challenge of keeping standardized.

Natural Sciences and Mathematics – Dorothy Hanna

- Biology: 55 credit hours, includes 4 unique courses.
- Bio Chemistry: 69-72 credit hours, no unique courses.
We are in flux with external standards.
- ESCR: 52-56 credit hours, 4-6 are unique.
- There is crossover in Physics.
A lot of courses for NSM are pulled from other areas and Liberal Studies.
- BSHS – the Liberal Studies version typically fills, often with a wait list.
- Chemistry: 57 credit hours, 2-3 are unique.
- Chemistry Ed: We should add one more upper level class.
Brief discussion about restructuring to have all the sciences methods courses in STEM.
- Physics Ed: No unique courses. Will likely go dormant; after two dormant cycles it becomes inactive.
- Computer studies: two tracks, both have 48 credit hours with no unique courses.
Two tracks are Network Management and Forensic Computing. Do we need some sort of forensics capstone? It used to be a stand-alone major, reworked into this concentration.
- Computer major: 3 are unique.
Some schools have computer management out of the business department. Language today is more toward strategic data management or intelligent data (cyber security).
- Math: 42 credit hours, 4 are unique.
- Physics: 76 -83 credit hours, 6 are unique.
- Gen Physics: 5 credit hours.

Some programs were reduced to make tracks this past year. Have we over-inflated a degree? Offering too many tracks? We need to track data for a couple of years to see what the students want. Option to explore: can we partner with anyone for engineering?

Social Sciences – Steve Hoekstra

- Business: all 3 are 45 credit hours.
- Marcom: no unique courses.
- CJ/EM: both have 39 credit hours, no double dipping.
- For EM, there may be 15-20 students who may or may not pick up CJ courses. There is expertise in crossover with these two programs. Has EM grown online? Originally it was to be all online. The online program is more of an interest at the graduate level. Should EM become a concentration in CJ? Being able to crossover will help with going more online. CJ majors have gone down. If we hire another faculty member, that person should be focused in both CJ and EM. Some nursing students are interested in minoring in EM; come in as a freshman in Business/CJ.
- Sociology: 40 credit hours, one is unique. What is the need for this degree now that we have Social Work on board? It is more of a theoretical degree. Social Theory is the only course that applies to Sociology and is offered every other year.
- Psychology: Outside of music, this program uses the most adjuncts. The big adjunct push is more for the online classes and interdisciplinary studies. Teacher Ed has no ownership in Developmental Psychology.

- Social Work: only has 1 unique course, in psychology. The Social Work program was designed to facilitate double dipping. This is good for the Liberal Studies mission and to give our students a leg up upon graduation.
- The division is in the process of trimming out under-enrolled tracks. The psychology classes are good for other majors.
- Psychological Services: Is an applied application. Kansas allows for direct entry into school counselor position with this degree. Social Work is designed to easily have Psychological Services or Sociology as a double major; must be licensed to be HS counselor.
- Addictions counseling courses required are counting in Social Work or Psychology.
- On-Demand courses needs to be discussed more at DC level.
- Might be some classes that could be matched with other departments, Statistics for example.
- There are some BSHS classes that could be specialized or general courses.
- Interdisciplinary Studies: Has one class. It is designed to be a rigorous program to teach students how to integrate similar things; they are marketable; a minor could be useful. Gives people who have lots of interest a cohort.
- Are we missing an opportunity by NOT having a degree completion? Yes. We would need to look at it more before making a decision. Degree completion is a good question to explore with EAB; it's clear it is not one of our current tracks.
- A recommendation from the 5-year program review was to look at restructuring the courses due to low numbers.
- An "open option" is not a degree. A creative major uses strategic classes for a degree, has to have a supervisor degree, and student comes up with the classes to make it work.
- Interdisciplinary Studies Degree uses courses across different tracks; it is a blue print for designing their own majors. It may be time to look at all the creative/designed degrees. Do we currently have the right student body for Interdisciplinary Studies Degree?
- Honors Program – counts as a minor.
Do we have any students who complete the Honors Program? Yes, there were three last year, and one the prior year. There are enough students in the Honors Program now to have cohorts. Should they be stand-alone courses? Regular courses with tag for Honors? Does having an Honors Program affect recruiting? Not sure. We can purchase Honors Program names in the market. Does having an Honors Program add to retaining the student? All the students must be above 3.8 GPA to be an Honors student, but there are no special courses. Are there enough benefits for these students? Would it be better to focus on a narrow top student group – STEM? The main benefit from assessment showed that the students liked getting to take classes with other honor level students. Honors students come in at the freshman level. Should be a feeder for Alpha Chi. The Honors Program is purposely capped for low numbers. What is our policy – if we have low enrollment numbers, how can we tie "x" together? We could pay the Alpha Chi membership for students if we stopped the Honors Program.

Enhance/Revamp/Grow: Add Interdisciplinary Studies to this list.

Homework for IDC Members/ Preparation for Next Meeting:

- Dr. Rodriguez: Dr. Thompson requested Dr. Rodriguez to look at all Education majors and the number of credit hours, develop a list of Liberal Studies courses not double dipping or are stand-alone, note if they count towards a Liberal Studies elective, or are there courses specifically created for Liberal Studies, and how many classes are taught with less than 5 students – for those required for a major.
- Were there some courses created for Liberal Studies and then inserted in as elective options? Damon will check on numbers regarding this.

Next IDC Meetings: The next IDC meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 3-5 pm in Backstrom Conference Room.

Adjournment: Dr. Thompson adjourned the meeting at 5:02 pm.

Submitted by:
Jan Shirk
EAP and Meeting Recorder