Faculty Senate 2018–2019
MINUTES: February 6, 2019
Whirlpool Room, Chan Shun Hall
6:00-8:00 pm
K. Hall, Chair; K. Bailey, recording sect’y


Regrets/absent: B. Ade-Oshifogun, S. Bell, C. Gane, B. Gibson, O. Glanz, P. Lyons, M. Murray, A. Luxton.


Votes & Actions taken (numbers [n] represent items on original agenda)

[2] Minutes of December 12, 2018 Senate Meeting.  MOTION: Move to approve minutes as presented (K. Bailey).  Seconded; VOTE PASSED.

[4] Committee Reports (R. Wells)
   Undergraduate Council (12/3, 1/7)—UGC items from 12/3 and 1/7 involving BA/BS degree definition, ACE framework, and change to undergraduate residency requirement were discussed under specific items.

   Graduate Council (12/5)—The Graduate Council is considering the issue of differences in tuition across programs.

   Academic Operations Council (9/17, 10/1, 11/12)—No specific items were reported to the Senate.

   AU UFO Steering Committee—The Steering Committee will be adding Michael Gayle to fill and open seat.

   Faculty Policy and Development Council, Race and Justice.  No report.

[5] UGC Action: New BS/BA Degree Definition

The Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees promote a liberal arts education that fosters distinct methodologies and intellectual capacities. Both degrees require focused study of the human experience and scientific inquiry.

The Bachelor of Arts is a liberal arts degree that explores the human experience and its meaning across a variety of disciplines. The degree includes second language proficiency at the intermediate level and often provides opportunities for a minor.

The Bachelor of Science is a liberal arts degree allowing for concentrated study in a particular field.

The Senate asked whether this degree definition would affect professional programs—definition of professional programs is a separate issue under consideration by the Undergraduate Council.

MOTION: “To ACCEPT the definition of the BA and BS degrees recommended by the Undergraduate Council.” (Lim).  Seconded, VOTE PASSED.

The Senate had questions about how the change to 43 credits would affect programs that currently use the professional ACE package. It was noted that all undergraduate programs would need to review the consequences as the project moved forward, but that all involved would work to mitigate negative outcomes for students. Any requests from programs need to be framed in terms of outcomes, not classes.

MOTION: “To ACCEPT the 43-credit framework for the ACE program, including division of the 43 credits by subject area, as recommended by the Undergraduate Council.” (Lim). Seconded, VOTE PASSED.

[7] UGC Action: Change to Undergraduate Residency Requirement

The Senate discussed the need for a change in the undergraduate residency requirement from:

“A minimum of 30 of the last 36 semester credits applied to a baccalaureate degree must be earned on campus OR a minimum of 50% (62 credits) of undergraduate credit requirement. Before a student takes non-Andrews University courses for any part of the other 6 semester credits, the dean of the college/school in which the student is enrolled must approve.”

to language that removes the requirement that the 30 credits must be in the final year:

“A minimum of 30 credits for baccalaureate programs and 15 credits for associate degrees must be earned through completion of Andrews University classes included in the academic bulletin.”

Other elements of the undergraduate residency policy in the bulletin were not changed in this recommendation, nor was the limit on transfer of credits (70 credits) from two-year colleges (there is no limit, apart from the residency policy, on transfer from four-year institutions). Students are currently required to complete one-third of credits for majors and 3 credits for minors on campus and in courses numbered 300 or above.

The purpose of the recommendation is to simplify degree completion for non-traditional students who have many credits completed. The Senate discussed possible impacts on traditional students, whether this policy would change the meaning of an Andrews degree, and whether different policies could be put in place for traditional (i.e. first time in any college) and non-traditional undergraduates. Senators also noted that considering the proportion of credits to be completed in residence in a major as part of the recommendation might also be helpful, as would some benchmarking information and information about how many students might be affected by the change.

MOTION: “To ACCEPT the revised undergraduate residency policy as recommended by the Undergraduate Council.” (Lim). Motion not seconded; motion failed.

MOTION: “To REQUEST that the Undergraduate Council re-examine the undergraduate residency policy with consideration of the consequences for traditional undergraduate students, and to consider options including differentiated residency requirements. (Badenas). Seconded, VOTE PASSED (voice vote; 2 opposed).
Senate Discussion & Announcements

[1] Worship & Prayer

This semester introduces Innovation in Teaching and Learning Grants proposals, with are due March 15. These are nonexclusive with the Faculty Research Grant project. All faculty are encouraged to apply. The AU Teaching and Learning Conference is the first Thursday after Spring Break. All faculty are encouraged to register. The conference has been planned to allow not only AU faculty, but also community educators to participate.

[8] University Response to Challenge in Higher Education: Blue Ribbon Commissions (C. Arthur)
The Provost reviewed the Blue Ribbon Commissions that he has put together to work on current challenges in higher education. The Provost will provide a list of the commission members to the faculty Senate.

Next Faculty Senate meeting: February 20, 2019.