

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs
February 2, 2021, 3:30 pm

ZOOM ONLY: 442 684 782 or <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/442684782>

Present: Sara Blankley (Gen. Univ.), Jenny Bormann (Ag), Spencer Clark (Ed), Elizabeth Dodd (A&S), Mark Linville (BA), Carol Sevin (LIB), Phil Vardiman (HHS-Co-Chair), Don Von Bergen (TA-Co-Chair), and Steve Warren (EN), Erin Yelland (EXT)

Absent: Michael McGlynn (APD), and Reagan Stonestreet (SGA)

Proxy: Kelli Almes (Vet Med)

Guests/Visitors: Michael Pritchard and Troy Harding

Nonvoting liaisons present: Shannon Castleberry (REG)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm
2. The January 19th minutes were approved as submitted.
3. Course Proposals:

To view full proposals, see the Curriculog Agenda: <https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:1216/form>

Technology & Aviation (Polytechnic) - New prefix	MLAS - 100 - Survey of Machine Learning and Autonomous Systems MLAS - 200 - Introduction to Automata and Cybernetic Systems Theory MLAS - 350 - Data Structures for Machine Learning MLAS - 390 - Unsupervised Learning in Autonomous Systems MLAS - 400 - Supervised learning in Autonomous Systems MLAS - 500 - Reinforcement Learning in Autonomous Systems MLAS - 501 - Artificial Intelligence Studio MLAS - 502 - Autonomous Systems Senior Capstone
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A motion was made by Von Bergen and seconded by Dodd to approve the courses from Technology & Aviation. Michael Pritchard and Troy Harding were present to answer questions. A few minor changes were discussed and made. The last sentence in MLAS 350 was removed, and the course description for MLAS 501 and 501 were slightly modified to clarify the distinction between the two courses. Motion carried.

4. Curriculum Proposal:

To view full proposals, see the Curriculog Agenda: <https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:1217/form>

Technology and Aviation (Polytechnic)	Engineering Technology (B.S.) Machine Learning and Autonomous Systems Option (new option)
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A motion was made by Von Bergen and seconded by Vardiman to approve the curriculum from Technology & Aviation. A couple brief questions were addressed. Motion carried.

5. KBOR General Education Working Group report – Brian Niehoff
 Niehoff reminded all that this group has been tasked by KBOR to develop a framework by which any student graduating from a 2-year institution with a credential (AA, AS, etc.) in the KBOR system would meet the General Education requirements of any of the 4-year institutions in the system. The key goal is to make the transfer process simpler and more meaningful for those students who graduate from the 2-year institutions. They are primarily in the information gathering stage right now so there is nothing new

to report. Brie Heidbreder (Pol Sci) has been selected to serve as a faculty representative on the Gen Ed Working Group and may also join for future updates.

6. New Business - Discussion

A. Course/Curriculum timelines

Von Bergen noted there was a request to have this committee discuss the overall timeline of course and curriculum approval. A committee member had been contacted by faculty in her college about the process and whether there is ability and room for change.

Lengthy discussion occurred between guests and committee members. At times there is confusion, especially for faculty new to the course and curriculum process, about the process itself, timelines, where to find relevant information and the like. A good exchange of ideas and thoughtful input was had. Members discussed overall process and context for the questions raised. Also, the reasons were discussed regarding why proposals are put through various layers of approval. Faculty wish to be innovative and have proposals approved quickly, yet, there is still the need for proper vetting and enough time to review a proposal. Also, not to be overlooked, are the administrative functions that are required to put proposals into place.

This will be on a future agenda for continued discussion and input. Members were asked to reach out to their curriculum committees to get feedback about this topic. Understanding perceived bottlenecks and where there could be improvement is valuable. Another suggestion shared was inquiring whether the Graduate School would be willing to remove 600-699 courses from their approval load and those could come directly to FS AAC, since as the handbook states, these are undergraduate level courses.

It was also believed that sending an additional announcement out about the revised Approval, Routing, and Notification procedures would be worthwhile.

7. Ongoing Committee work

B. Optional syllabus statement on University Excused Absences

No update.

C. Undergraduate Academic Certificate Policy review

No update.

D. Post Bacc Minor Policy review

No update.

E. Interdisciplinary program Policy review

Bormann reported that they met with Jeannie Brown Leonard and had a good starting conversation. They'll continue moving forward with discussion on this item.

8. Announcements and/or for the good of the University

None at this time.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 3:30 pm; Zoom ID: 442 684 782