
**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Marissa Molina, Chairwoman of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee, called the ASA Committee meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees Present: Trustee Marissa Molina, Trustee Mike Johnston, Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Trustee Jim Qualteri, Trustee Emily Garnett, Trustee Russell Noles, Trustee Albus Brooks, Trustee Mike Kopp, Trustee Jerry Glick, Trustee Olivia Mendoza, Faculty Senate Trustee Meredith Jeffers, and Student Trustee Gabriel Trujillo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the January 26, 2023, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes - Trustee Brooks **moved for approval** of the August 25, 2022, ASA Committee meeting minutes, with a **second** by Trustee Noles. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of New Programs – Majors, Minors, Concentrations & Certificates – Shaun Schafer, AVP Curriculum, Academic Effectiveness, and Policy Development

The MSU Denver faculty drive curriculum development and each year makes around 500 curriculum changes that impact our 112 possible majors, 97 minors, and our master's degrees. Of those changes, 0.5 percent are significant enough to require Board approval.

New Programs – Aging Services Leadership and four new minors, two in English, one in Health Professions, and Human Sport. There are upgraded majors & minors in Health Professions, English, Business, Education, Journalism and Media Production. There are new certificates in English, Education, and Accounting.

It was **moved by** Trustee Brooks and **seconded** by Trustee Glick to recommend approval of the new programs – majors, minors, concentrations, and certificates, to the Board of Trustees. **Unanimously Approved.**

Approval of Discontinued Programs - Shaun Schafer, AVP Curriculum, Academic Effectiveness, and Policy Development

Discontinuations in English, Education, and Health Professions are being discontinued by lack of demand or have a minor that serves the purpose. Trustee Molina asked if any of the new certificates were informed by business partnerships, faculty recommendations, or student enrollment. Many factors outside of academics influence the discontinuation of programs. The Bi-lingual Certificate is being discontinued due to lack of demand; Associate Dean Altemueller informed the committee that the certificate was replaced by a Bi-Lingual Endorsement program that leads to a state certification.

Discontinuations are decided by declining student demand, or industry demanding a change in the need for the program. New programs come from student and employers needs and stay abreast of the topic areas.

It was **moved by** Trustee Brooks and **seconded** by Trustee Glick to recommend approval of the discontinued programs to the Board of Trustees. **Unanimously Approved.**

Approval to Use Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing for University Nursing Programs – Shaun Schafer, AVP, Curriculum, Academic Effectiveness & Policy Development

It was **moved by** Trustee Brooks and **seconded** by Trustee Noles to recommend approval of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to the Board of Trustees. **Unanimously Approved.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Academic Program Review – *Shaun Schafer, AVP Curriculum, Academic Effectiveness, and Policy Development*

MSU Denver academic programs bring in outside experts to review programs from within. This process takes place over a seven-year cycle that has a cycle that includes two-year updates and a one-year intensive review. Assessment, as a culture, has not always been strong at MSU Denver. Faculty have been singled out for their outstanding qualifications, and outside reviewers also identify threats and concerns, which helps identify ways on how to keep our faculty here. There are 42 academic departments with multiple majors; program review is constant.

If an unlimited amount of money was available to improve academic programs, it would go towards faculty and facilities. More lab spaces and outstanding faculty are always needed. Programs have ended when we do not have the right faculty. The outside reviewer interviews students about their experiences. Program reviewers often show up in our applicant pools or take our ideas back to their respective institutions.

Dr. Shaun Schafer was thanked by the committee for leading with integrity, passion, and commitment.

Colorado Re-engaged (CORE) – *Alfred Tatum, Provost*

The Colorado Reengagement House Bill (CORE) enables four-year institutions to offer associate degrees to students who have stopped out from academia during the period of May 2012-Dec 2021; there are about 19,000 eligible students. MSU Denver has identified 4,000 - 5,000 students that are eligible for an associate degree. The plan will go to the faculty and then to the Board of Trustees at the end of the semester. Associate degrees allow students to obtain higher paying jobs, and help students return for bachelor degrees.

Students will not have to pay outstanding debts to receive an associate degree, which requires 70 credit hours. Students are informed that they are eligible, and they can decide whether to apply for the degree; this allows students to have a fresh start. Dr. Shaun Schafer and his team are leading the effort.

MSU Denver has sifted through the list of eligible students and will be reaching out to them at their permanent address. If a student has completed enough credit hours for residency, they must be made available for reverse transfer. We will be required to provide a report to CDHE and the Board of Trustees. There is minimal funding from the state; MSU Denver has budgeted \$40,000.

Faculty Workload Proposal – *Provost Tatum & Larry Sampler* – *Alfred Tatum, Provost and Larry Sampler, VP of Administration/Chief Operating Officer*

Twenty years ago, MSU Denver faculty asked for an examination of the faculty teaching load; Provost Tatum was asked to continue the faculty teaching analysis. Faculty have formulated a change to their teaching load; our faculty commitment has not diminished over the last twenty years.

This action will provide a significant shift to the academic enterprise and fiscal culture. This enables a focus on the next 50 years steeped in a fiscally prudent growth orientation, not austerity. It is student-centric, faculty-centric, and budget centric. This is not an initiative being proposed, and it is not blindly acting without regard to enrollment and other ongoing fiscal and other analyses; this is not a reduction in faculty teaching load.

This endeavor will elevate teaching, recruit and retaining talented faculty, improve student retention and graduation rates, and increase diverse faculty orientation; improve faculty experience, honor faculty ongoing commitments to respond to internal and external warrants and, reduce the need to recruit adjuncts in a low-salary environment.

The current system was inherited from Western Colorado University prior to our university status and was established during a different budgetary climate. The system is associated with teaching institutions and community colleges with fewer expectations for research, innovation, grant-seeking, experiential learning, or community engagement – our faculty are already engaged in these practices.

Nearly 45% of all Tenure and Tenure-Track faculty and 63% across our five colleges/schools are already on a teaching load that mirrors the workload proposal to decrease to 3/3. Faculty are engaged in developing new norms for teaching, scholarship, and service. Faculty governance is being strengthened.

Dr. Tatum went over the proposed three-year hiring and implementation plans to achieve the 3/3 workload and fiscal considerations. It was proposed to fund year one and come to a decision after an evaluation.

The trustees discussed if MSU Denver was equipped to handle the changes proposed at this time. The decision cannot be rushed. The trustees voiced their support of the proposal but decided that they would need time to review the information.

Trustee Molina asked the Deans to please send pertinent articles to the trustees so they can be knowledgeable about this in future discussions.

Briefing on Grant Opportunities – *Maluwa Behringer, Executive Director of Employer Engagement and Alfred Tatum, Provost*

Maluwa Behringer and Alfred Tatum presented the Workforce Grants Review that outlined details about Opportunity Now HB 22-1350, the Auraria Workforce Innovation and Skills Hub (A-WISH), partners on construction, Aerospace Industry Readiness Training, Cybersecurity, Slalom Assess and Activate Solution, Transition to College/Workforce Pathway, Internships for DACA and undocumented students, and DDO.

Dr. Tatum presented on the Office of Sponsored Research and Projects (OSRP) and the ongoing effort to combine our resources. Goals were discussed as well as a snapshot of MSU Denver's growth and infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT – 4:24