

Admissions, Standards and Honors (ASH) Committee Meeting
April 11, 2014
310 A Council Room, LSU Union

Meeting opened at 12:30 with quorum; Gerry Knapp presiding, minutes recorded by Graham Bodie

In attendance:

- Voting members – Fakhri Al-Bagdadi, Gerry Knapp, Paul LaRock, Doug McMillin, Larry Smolinsky, Alex Garn, Cathy Williams, Graham Bodie
- Proxies held – Sarah Bartolome (Knapp), Cathleen Williams (McMillin)
- Non-voting members –Lupe Lamadrid
- Guests – Dave Kurpius (Admissions)

Minutes from March 14, 2014 were approved by unanimous vote

I. LSU Online Proposal (Registrar's office)

Tabled until next meeting

II. Office of Undergraduate Admissions & Student Aid Proposal

Asking for authority for flexibility to make “minor” adjustments to admissions requirements to align with BoR and TOPS CORE changes

Discussion: concern about blanket authority to make changes without committee input; committee meets regularly enough to oversee changes

Several motions made and passed:

- Accept TOPS CORE 2018 changes for Fine Arts (Knapp), second (Al-Bagdadi)
 - Approved unanimously
- Accept TOPS CORE 2018 changes for Foreign Language with the exclusion of any course with “culture” in the title pending input from foreign language faculty (Knapp), second (Al-Bagdadi)
 - Approved unanimously
 - AHS will discuss courses with “culture” in title with Foreign Language faculty (Bodie).
- Accept TOPS CORE 2018 changes for social studies (Knapp), second (Al-Bagdadi)
 - Approved unanimously
- Math – defer to decision from math (Smolinsky to provide)
- Allow Admissions office to accept without ASH approval any AP or IB courses that are equivalent to standard courses already accepted by LSU (Knapp), second (Al-Bagdadi)
 - Approved unanimously
 - This motion then applies to English, Math, and Natural Sciences changes
 - Admissions office will notify ASH of approval of new AP/IB courses.

III. Undergraduate Admissions Standards to Require High School Level Physics

White paper circulated by members of the Faculty Senate in support of reinstating the requirement that LSU require a high school level physics course for admission

Several formal letters submitted to ASH in favor of and opposing such a change; note that these letters are coming from the leadership of these entities and do not necessarily represent the consensus of faculty input:

- Manship School: Jerry Ceppos, Andrea Miller, Amy Reynolds, Meghan Sanders (opposed)
- Human Sciences and Education: Damon P. S. Andrew (opposed)
- Humanities and Social Sciences: Gaines Foster (opposed)
- College of Engineering: Joseph Odenwald, Rick Koubek (mixed)
- Coastal Environmental Science: Vincent Wilson (favor)
- Department of Management: Timothy Chandler (favor)
- College of Science: Guillermo Ferreyra (opposed)
- College of Music: Steven Beck (opposed)

Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Aid verbally provided data that:

- No SEC school or peer flagship institution requires Physics for admission
- No Big 10 school requires Physics for admission
- Most of our peer institutions require only 3 years of science education, while LSU requires 4 years
- Institutions found to require physics include MIT, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon (but only for Engineering and Science students), and California Institute of Technology
- UA&A recommends language that LSU “strongly recommends but does not require high school physics”
- % of entering Engineering & Science students who have taken physics is 87.7% over past 7 years, this number dropped slightly over past 3.
- In 2011, 13% of overall entering student body did not take physics in high school; raised to 27% in 2013.
- For Fall 2012, if the requirement were in place, could have potentially cost the University \$8.9 million in lost enrollments; that fiscal shortfall for Fall 2013 jumps to \$11.2 million
- Currently in Louisiana, 253 of 278 (91%) of public schools offer a high school physics course.
- A comparison of performance of incoming students with and without high schools physics indicated no statistical difference in GPA.

Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Aid was asked by committee to:

- Provide written documentation of the above data presented.
- Provide data on whether rural students and minorities are, in fact, more likely to be impacted by a physics requirement.

ASH will contact the Registrar’s office for data on performance in physics for students with and without high school physics (Knapp).

Remaining meeting, Friday April 25, 1:30-2:30pm, TBA (LSU Union)

Meeting adjourned 1:31 PM

[Minutes submitted by Graham Bodie]