

GSW Faculty Senate Minutes

Special General Faculty meeting for the Associates Degree in Nursing Proposal

April 9, 2021 at 11:30 am

Recorded by Gary Fisk (for Susan Bragg)

A special meeting was held to vote on an associate's degree proposal from Nursing. Approval before the scheduled general faculty meeting was necessary to meet a Board of Regents deadline.

Several people made a motion for approving the proposal: Laurel Robinson, Laura Stanley, Michelle Dykes, Kathy Barnetson

Several Biology faculty members (Anne Jacobs, Tom Lorenz, Anh-hue Tu) voiced concerns about placing the associates degree students directly into 2000-level courses (Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, and Microbiology). Failure rates could be high if lower-level biology courses (e.g., BIOL 1107) are not taken prior to 2000-level courses. The Nursing leaders (Sandra Daniel and Teresea Teasley) acknowledged that direct placement into 2000-level biology courses might be difficult for students and result in high student attrition. There is a plan to provide tutoring and other forms of support for students who have low grades.

There was similar concern about adequate course preparation from other departments. Genie Bryan noted that ENGL 1102 was not required before taking 2000-level English literature courses. Tzvetelin Iordanov pointed out the lack of a required chemistry course before the biology course sequence. Nursing responded that they hope students will have a high school chemistry course before starting the program. They are also talking to local high schools about the need for greater academic rigor to properly prepare incoming students for college level coursework.

Evan Kutzler suggested changing Area E to create space for taking more Biology courses. Bryan Davis stated that American Government and American History had to remain in the curriculum to meet Regent's requirements. The Nurses want to keep PSYC 1101. There is no credit space remaining in the curriculum to fit in additional courses.

Sam Peavy had doubts about a quorum. The exact number of participants was uncertain due to people dropping in and out of the video conference due to weak internet connections. The number was finally estimated to be in the high 60s. A quorum was reached when the people who were sharing connections with others were counted.

Laurel Robinson called the question to end discussion. The vote was 53 in favor, with 4 opposed. The proposal was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.