Newcomb-Tulane College
Regular Meeting of the Faculty
19 April 2023, 3:30 PM, in Richardson 117

Meeting is chaired by Celeste Lay

3:30 Meeting is called to order with opening comments by the Dean and the approval of the 7 February 2023 minutes.

3:31 A quorum was established through a sign-in sheet.

3:38 Discussion of Motion 1 (from the Curriculum Committee) to Approve the Creation of a Minor in Social Work

Prior to faculty discussion Crystal Broussard (School of Social Work) answered questions from the faculty having to do with the structure of the minor, and Broussard stated that SSW was ready to work with the registrar to address any administrative challenges that may come up. These specific questions also came up.

- Q: Is the program actually budget “neutral” for SSW? A: There is not a great financial advantage to SSW for launching this minor.
- Q: Why are there no SSW faculty members currently listed for the courses that would be involved? A: Routine administrative process delays.

***Discussion was EXTENSIVE, and what follows is a summary of the discussion. NTC faculty members are urged to review this summary and propose amendments if anything crucial has been left out.

- SSW’s labor model is inconsistent with NTCs and NTC should not open the door to any further access of NTC students to non-NTC classes
- The quality of the instruction of the SSW courses was questioned.
- Expanding the role of non-NTC school within NTC also expands the influence of non-NTC faculty and programs, which compromises the NTC faculty governance model.
- The SSW faculty has evaluated the curriculum and we should not question the merits of it.
- The minor opens doors to careers to NTC students.
- The minor would feed the SSW school of social work.

A vote was taken using an electronic voting tool, the results of which were published by the NTC on 20 April as follows:

Motion 1: The creation of a minor in Social Work was approved
Nay votes: 29
3:59 Discussion of Motion 2 (from Committee on Academic Requirements) to approve allowing NTC students with a declared SoPA major or minor to count toward their degree three additional credits of non-NTC coursework that are outside their SoPA major/minor, provided the course was taken prior to declaring the SoPA major/minor.

***Discussion was VERY EXTENSIVE, and what follows is a summary of the discussion. NTC faulty members are urged to review this summary and propose amendments if anything crucial has been left out.

- The faculty does not have good information as to how many cases come up, and it is not clear how big the problem is that might be solved by this important change to NTC policy.
- A question was raised as to when NTC started allowing non-NTC courses to carry NTC attributes. Answer: Spring 2020 because it was argued that our students have trouble meeting NTC requirements through NTC.
- The number of petitions indicates perhaps that NTC students are allowed to take too many classes outside of NTC.
- This proposal is not designed to expand access to non-NTC classes but to address a particular administrative challenge.
- This proposal is designed to help students who are or were trying to pursue education certificates.
- Half of SoPA’s teaching faculty are adjuncts, and this proposal represents an expansion of that problem.
- Advising should be able to address some of these problems without changes to NTC policy.
- The question of how often petitions were approved was not answered definitively.
- While this proposal may solve administrative problems it is nevertheless inviting further problems.
- The idea that race and inclusion classes “have to be gotten out of the way” undermines core NTC principles and is a poor reason to expand access to SoPA classes.
- The NTC should exhaust strategies for addressing the administrative problem administratively and not through curricular requirements.
- The problem of contingent faculty is not unique to NTC, and SoPA’s reliance on PoPs is not different from and several NTC programs (ENGL 1010, SLAM, etc.).
- We should not be “taking the course back” from students once they take it.
- Are we not “raising the speed” limit here too? That is, once we allow 3 more credits in this special case, might that not become the norm?
• Can we address this issue from the perspective of long-term policy change?
• Can we bring a proposal requiring NTC students to take their requirements within NTC.
• Not allowing students to do this would cost money.
• We already allow students to take up to 50% of their courses outside of Tulane, so this restriction does not make sense.
• It would make more sense to allow students to take 50% of their classes outside of NTC, which would also obviate the need for the proposed change.
• Can we amend the course to stop students from using this provision from getting around the restriction?
• Can we have the attribute transfer over if the course doesn't?
• There are budget consequences to taking these classes.
• There are structural inequities involved in this issue.
• Can we revisit the 2020 measure to allow students to take classes outside of NTC?
• Faculty interested in revisiting the 2020 measure should convene, frame the problem, and submit a proposal to the CAR.

16:45 Movement to Table (Luongo; Seconded by Dana).

16:50 Movement to Table is passed.

16:51 Meeting Adjourned