

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the October 21, 2016 Meeting

Present: Rob Beezer (Secretary), Peggy Burge, David Chiu, Kent Hooper, Chris Kendall, Alan Krause, Elise Richman (Chair), Holly Roberts, Leslie Saucedo, Jason Struna, Bryan Thines, Justin Tiehen, Benjamin Tromly, Nila Wiese.

Visitors: Emily Mullins, Ellen Peters.

RICHMAN called the meeting to order at 4:02 in Library 020. The minutes of the October 14, 2016 meeting were approved after two minor edits. RICHMAN announced a faculty exhibition at the Kittredge Art Gallery, immediately following the meeting.

Working Group 1 Report TIEHEN presented two courses for approval.

ENVR 343, *Buddhist Environmentalisms*, as proposed by Rachel DeMotts (Environmental Policy and Decision Making) for the KNOW graduation requirement. **Action:** Approved.

AFAM 201, *Methods in African American Studies*, as proposed by Dexter Gordon (African American Studies and Communication Studies) for the KNOW graduation requirement. **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 2 Report TROMLY reported that his working group had nothing to report.

Working Group 3 Report WIESE reported that the Philosophy Department had submitted their curriculum review materials, so the group would begin working on those soon.

Working Group 4 Report HOOPER reported that his working group had nothing to report.

KNOW Course Review RICHMAN asked if Working Group 4 had found any difficulty approving a course, and additionally considering it for the KNOW overlay as a graduation requirement. HOOPER responded, “no problem.” RICHMAN then promulgated the workflow that in a similar situation with two approvals expected, the working group responsible for the *other* approval will also consider the approval for the KNOW requirement.

Spring Calendar Study RICHMAN presented the two remaining options for Spring calendar changes to shorten the semester to make the class days equinumerous to those of the Fall semester. Discussion ensued on how best to meet the Faculty Senate's charge: "Investigate and report on potential impacts and opportunities of options A and B identified by the Curriculum Committee last year to equalize teaching days in Fall and Spring semester."

It was agreed that

- Working Group 1 will consult the Staff Senate about work and employment consequences,
- Working Group 2 will consult Facilities Services,
- Working Group 3 will consult the Student Life Committee,
- Working Group 4 will consult offices involved with Commencement (Associate Deans, Alumni and Parent Relations),
- Kate Cohn, Assistant Dean, will be consulted with regard to Summer Session scheduling.

Core Curriculum Assessment Report from Institutional Research Ellen Peters and Emily Mullins, of the university Office of Institutional Research (IR) visited to present and discuss the *2016 University of Puget Sound Core Curriculum Assessment Report*.

Peters began by describing the history and general nature of their work to support the committee's activities through surveys and focus groups exploring specific areas of the Core Curriculum and more general goals for these courses as a group.

Mullins reviewed more specific details of the report's methodology, noting that the survey had a respectable 37% participation rate. She then highlighted specific findings of the in-depth review of the Artistic Approaches, Humanistic Approaches, and Natural Scientific Approaches core areas.

TOMHAVE asked if more precise information could be made available from the Humanistic Approaches findings, in light of his working group reviewing this area. For example, the report quotes student comments from focus groups about the "Euro-centric" nature of courses in this area, and it would be helpful to have more exact information about the scale and nature of these types of comments, since they are not part of the broader quantitative survey responses.

HOOPER wondered if the stronger students, or the weaker students, were clamoring for more "hands on" courses in the Artistic Approaches area (as opposed to Art History courses).

BEEZER questioned the consistency of the statistical significance reported for the nine Student's *t*-test statistics, and if the expectation of improvement over four years did not suggest a one-sided test would be more appropriate than a two-sided test.

RICHMAN asked on behalf of JACKSON if the findings for the Natural Scientific Approaches area could somehow be incorporated in the committee's review of this area last year. Peters responded that this was a question for the committee, not for her office.

Discussion then moved to future activities. Peters responded to WIESE's query that an in-depth review of the Social Scientific Approaches was performed last year, or the one before, and so will be made available to this year's working group.

The two first-year seminars (SSI 1, SS2) will be the subject of this spring's in-depth reviews (and only these areas). It was decided that the best procedure would be for IR to bring draft questions

to the full committee (in January or February of next year) for review and suggestions before they are used.

Peters summarized items she planned to act on:

- Review the test statistics in Table 2 of the report,
- Work on reporting more demographic information about respondents,
- Draft SSI questions to bring to the committee early next year.

The motion to adjourn was made by RICHMAN, professor of Art, at 4:59 P.M. The next meeting will be October 28, 2016 at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer