

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the January 27, 2017 Meeting

Present: Rob Beezer (Secretary), Peggy Burge, Kent Hooper, Martin Jackson, Chris Kendall, Carson Nies, Elise Richman (Chair), Holly Roberts, Leslie Saucedo, Jason Struna, Brad Tomhave, Bryan Thines, Justin Tiehen, Benjamin Tromly, Nila Wiese.

Visitor: Lisa Hutchinson.

RICHMAN called the meeting to order at 3:00 in the McCormick Room. The minutes of the December 2, 2016 meeting were approved with no changes.

Announcements From this meeting's agenda, the meeting dates for the semester: February 3, February 10, February 17, February 24, March 3, March 10, March 31, April 7, April 14, April 28, May 5.

Working Group 1 Report TIEHEN presented one course for approval.

STS 324, *Science and Race: A History*, as proposed by Kristin Johnson (Science, Technology and Society Program) for the KNOW graduation requirement. **Action:** Approved.

TIEHEN reported from the Staff Senate of December 14 that there were not objections to any of the proposed Spring calendar changes, with the exception of any changes that meant starting the semester a week early. This change would interfere with large orders that must be placed immediately after break ends (e.g. chemicals for labs, which have expiration dates), the faculty and staff professional development conference (PDEC) offered during this time, and numerous facilities issues such as planned power outages, hazardous waste pickup, and maintenance.

Working Group 2 Report TROMLY reported nothing to report, other than thanking HOOPER for the materials for the review of German. He then asked about staffing of working groups, given that CHIU and FREEMAN have moved to the Faculty Senate. RICHMAN and JACKSON will consult on rearrangements of committee members and activities in light of the the suddenly lean membership of the committee.

Working Group 3 Report WIESE reported that they are reviewing syllabi from the Philosophy Department, and have received back from the department responses to their questions. For their Social Sciences Approaches core review they will formulate questions to send to Ellen Peters in Institutional Research.

WIESE also reported reactions to proposed Spring schedule changes on student life. Students who work in Residential Life, and students in the Greek system, often return well in advance of the start of classes. Some students find seasonal work during break, and other students enjoy an extended break if they are unable to travel during the midterm break. So there were a variety of concerns about schedules that started the semester a week early. Their response discussed the option of interspersed days with no class meetings. There would not be much programming generated for these days, so there would be the potential for more idle time for the students.

Working Group 4 Report HOOPER reported that they have received a response from the Politics and Government Department as part of their departmental review, but have not yet met to discuss it.

Spring Calendar Study RICHMAN will consult Dining and Conference Services and the Office of Finance, two areas which may have comments to add to the committee's information-gathering. She will gather together all the input into one collection for the committee to consider.

Unit Limits on Majors and Minors JACKSON reported proceeding through the Bulletin, alphabetically, in an attempt to delineate for each major the number of courses in the "major field" versus courses in "supporting fields", language used in the relevant portion of the Curriculum Statement. He was stymied quickly by the interdisciplinary nature of the African American Studies major. Perhaps there are major field courses, supporting field courses, and a middle ground of interdisciplinary courses for some majors?, he posited. There was no consensus on this question.

After much discussion, similar to those of previous meetings, it was decided that Working Group 3 would draft a reformulation of the department review question about the number of required units. It will provide preliminary context from the Curriculum Statement and attempt to streamline the question, with an eye to making it less of a hollow exercise.

Liberal Studies Major, Freedom Education Project Puget Sound The Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) teaches college courses at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, located nearby in Purdy. The committee would need to approve a proposal for a new Liberal Studies Major in order for students in this program to receive degrees from Puget Sound. The discussion today was about what further information the committee would need to make this evaluation, though touched also on some logistical issues.

ROBERTS asked for clarification of item (4) of the provided Curricular Impact Statement, specifically if service on an Advisory Board will be "on their own time," as the teaching itself is described, and further clarification of the trailing "and so on."

Students are presently being provided transcripts for an Associate's degree by Tacoma Community College (TCC), though the courses and faculty are generally not part of any program at TCC. TOMHAVE explained that Puget Sound was under no obligation to accept these courses for transfer, and that it was a "first principle" that the design, administration, and conduct of these courses should be reviewed before being accepted as transfer credit.

Discussion included an "Appendix" with detailed requirements for the proposed major. TOMHAVE observed co-curricular requirements (e.g. a Contemporary Controversies Lecture Series) proposed as a new degree requirement (number (7)), which would not extend to students in other majors.

This might be better as a requirement for the major. Further, part (10) proposes a waiver of the degree requirement for three upper-division courses outside the major. Substitutions might be allowed, but these requirements are not typically waived.

This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

RICHMAN, Professor of Art, adjourned the meeting at 4:02 P.M. The next meeting will be on February 3 at 3 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer