

# Curriculum Committee

## Minutes of the March 3, 2017 Meeting

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

RICHMAN called the meeting to order at 3:01 in the McCormick Room. The minutes of the February 24, 2017 meeting were approved with three changes.

**Announcements** SAUCEDO suggested a quick survey about intended attendance at the next meeting, scheduled just hours prior to the start of Spring Break. To her disappointment, her colleagues are not nearly as exciting as she thought, and it appeared there was likely to be a quorum.

JACKSON noted that we will not meet on March 24, due to campus-wide events for President Crawford's inauguration. He and RICHMAN will consult on remaining business and the meeting schedule.

**Working Group 1 Report** TIEHEN reported that questions had been sent to the Biology Department as part of their review.

**Working Group 2 Report** TROMLY reported that consultation continues with the German Studies Department as part of their review.

**Working Group 3 Report** KENDALL spoke at the invitation of WIESE, reporting significant progress and promising further reports in a week.

**Working Group 4 Report** HOOPER mentioned a Connections course needing approval, but was not prepared to present it at this meeting.

**Update: Spring Calendar Change** RICHMAN reported she has optimistically scheduled herself to make a presentation on this topic to the Faculty Senate on March 20. She circulated possible implementations of Option C (sprinkle no-class days throughout the semester), for further discussion at our next meeting. She reminded the committee that we have been asked to only make recommendations to the Faculty Senate.

**Liberal Studies Major, Freedom Education Project Puget Sound** RICHMAN opened the floor for suggestions of questions to ask of Professors Robin Jacobson and Seth Weinberger about the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS).

- TROMLY stated that he felt more confident about this proposal after the previous discussion, with HOOPER seconding the sentiment.
- HOOPER expressed some concern about how these courses would be staffed, to which RICHMAN remarked that other new majors are expected to project enrollments and staffing requirements.
- KENDALL brought up reviewing syllabi, and JACKSON suggested that courses unique to this program (such as the bridge course) would be important ones to review.
- Much of the remainder of the discussion centered on university graduation requirement for three upper-division courses outside of a major, which the new major asks to be waived. Consideration of whether this is a question for the Curriculum Committee or the Academic Standards Committee led JACKSON to suggest maybe a group formed from both committees would be a more efficient way to handle this question, and other questions like it.

**Experiential Learning Course Attribute** The proposed course attribute has a new initialism, EXLN, so as to look less like “EXPeL,” and more like “EXceLLeNt.”

RICHMAN began the discussion of the appropriate form of a body to review courses applying for this attribute, leading KENDALL and TROMLY to ask if we had even settled the question of the existence of such an attribute. RICHMAN backed up a step and opened the discussion of recognizing such courses.

WIESE asked why this was not going through a thorough process like the KNOW graduation requirement? RICHMAN replied that this would not be part of a student’s transcript, nor was this a requirement of any sort, and so this was simply informational and did not have the same “heft.”

There was some existential soul-searching about the committee’s role, which included JACKSON noting that many such attributes are in use now within PeopleSoft, such as **Study Abroad** with possible values such as **Pacific Rim/Asian Study-Travel**, and **Travel Study** with possible values such as **Food Systems Northwest**. None of these attributes had necessarily come before the committee.

After much discussion, KENDALL suggested having the attribute as an informational item for just faculty might be appropriate at this stage, rather than making it available to students while there is not yet a consensus on the nature or purpose of such courses. JACKSON thought this was a very good idea.

RICHMAN, Professor of Art, adjourned the meeting at 4:01 P.M. The next meeting will be on March 10 at 3 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Beezer