

# Curriculum Committee

## Minutes of the March 10, 2017 Meeting

**Present:** Rob Beezer (Secretary), Kent Hooper, Martin Jackson, Chris Kendall, Alan Krause, Elise Richman (Chair), Leslie Saucedo, Jason Struna, Bryan Thines, Justin Tiehen, Benjamin Tromly.

**Menu:** Courtesy of HOOPER, and in honor of the imminent start of Spring Break, there was an impressive spread of homemade bread, salmon, cheese, chocolate and sea salt caramels, and an assortment of beverages, adult and otherwise. RICHMAN sweetened the pot with huge chocolate chip and ginger cookies. Approval from the committee was unanimous.

**Visitors:** Noah Lumbantobing.

RICHMAN called the meeting to order at 3:01 in the McCormick Room. The minutes of the March 3, 2017 meeting were approved with no changes.

**Announcements** RICHMAN announced (in about the middle of the meeting) that her final report was due to the Faculty Senate on May 1, so she would like final reports from Working Groups by mid-April. HOOPER was surprised by the necessity of reports from working groups.

**Working Group 1 Report** TIEHEN brought forward one course for approval.

BIOL 362, *Nanobiology*, as proposed by Siddharth Ramakrishnan (Biology and Neuroscience Program) for the KNOW graduation requirement. The working group asked the committee's input on expectations and precedent for which portion of a course should be inflected by the overlay. After some discussion of the specifics of the course organization, HOOPER moved approval. Members of the working group present, having only discussed the issue electronically, each indicated their willingness to approve the course. **Action:** Approved.

**Working Group 2 Report** TROMLY brought forward two courses for approval.

SS11 161, *Social Order and Human Freedom*, as proposed by Richard Anderson-Connolly (Sociology & Anthropology) as a first-year seminar. The working group initiated some questions about the writing component of the course, which were answered to their satisfaction. **Action:** Approved.

SS11 123, *Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo*, as proposed by John Lear (History) as a first-year seminar. **Action:** Approved.

**Working Group 3 Report** KENDALL spoke in the absence of WIESE, bringing forward one course for approval.

MUS 224, *Women in Music*, as proposed by Gwynne Brown (Music) for the KNOW graduation requirement and the Artistic Approaches core requirement. The KNOW overlay was also reviewed by Working Group 1. **Action:** Approved.

The review of the Philosophy Department has a few small loose ends, but in the interest of preparations for pre-registration the working group moved approval. JACKSON will work with the department chair to get everything in order. **Action:** Approved.

The draft language for a reformulation of the department review question about the number of required units is now ready, and will be distributed for discussion at the next meeting.

**Working Group 4 Report** HOOPER described a proposal from the Economics Department to return their introductory course, ECON 170, to a two-semester sequence, ECON 101 and ECON 102. Client disciplines have been consulted and will be able to adjust. Upper-division elective requirements for the major will be reduced by one, in line with the Curriculum Statement's nine-unit limit. The working group has requested language for ECON 102 which might qualify it for the Social Scientific Approaches core requirement.

HOOPER moved that ECON 101, *Introduction to Markets and Macroeconomics* be approved for the Social Scientific Approaches core requirement. **Action:** Approved.

**Spring Calendar Change** RICHMAN introduced Noah Lumbantobing, visiting in his role as President of the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound. Lumbantobing spoke of his desire to see Option C enacted so that "intentional" campus-wide symposia, and similar events, could take place so that everyone could attend. He mentioned our new Common Hour, Whitman College's Power and Privilege event, and our national Race and Pedagogy conference as models.

There was continued discussion about Option C (sprinkle no-class days throughout the semester). The scheduling of these days, and their purpose were both discussed. HOOPER is of the opinion that the information gathered supported the idea that the faculty at-large preferred Option A (end Spring Semester one week earlier), and a vote of the faculty would end with this option. Various ways of distributing five (or four) no-class days were discussed, subject to the constraint of not disrupting scheduling of labs for the sciences. SAUCEDO was asked about the specifics of lab scheduling. After spilling her wine, she emphasized that one week could be disrupted (the presumably disposable week), and that labs were rarely held the first or last week of the semester if they are not full weeks. The consensus was that likely targets for no-class days were the Friday of the first week, two days in the week of the national President's Day holiday, and two days in the vicinity of the last days of class, reading period, final examinations, and commencement.

RICHMAN, Professor of Art, adjourned the meeting at 4:05 P.M. The next meeting will be on March 31 at 3 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Beezer