

## Curriculum Committee Minutes – 13 March 2019

**In attendance:** Alva Butcher (AB), Julie Christoph (JC), Regina Duthely (RD), Kent Hooper (KH), Gary McCall (GM), Jenny Pitonyak (JP), Geoff Proehl (GP), Maria Sampen (MS), Leslie Saucedo (LS), Jeff Tepper (JT), Courtney Thatcher (CT)

**Minutes taken by:** Jenny Pitonyak

The meeting was called to order by LS.

### **Approval of the minutes**

The minutes from February 20, 2010 were approved unanimously.

### **Announcements**

LS clarified the required components of course syllabi and added those to the curriculum committee document guiding the process of program reviews.

SIMs: Seven proposals were submitted so far this academic year. Two were approved last fall; however, 3 that were recently reviewed by working group 2 were incomplete. LS will follow-up with these 3 students to let them know what requirements each of their proposals were lacking. Two other SIM proposals will be discussed today.

### **Course approvals**

The following courses were approved unanimously:

ALC 205: Great Books of China and Japan (existing, AA core)

STS 344: Ecological Knowledges (existing, KNOW)

### **SIM approval: Computational Neuroscience**

Working group 3 members, MS and GM, commented on the strengths of this program review, including the program's consultation with outside faculty at Yale and comparisons with other outside programs. The working group also commented that the review was well thought out. GP moved to approve the review; LS seconded the motion. The program review was approved unanimously.

### **Proposal to accept Music Composition Major**

KH described the working group process for this review, which included several communications with Gerard Morris and Rob Hutchinson from the School of Music. The main finding of the review was that the School of Music has been offering this sequence of courses within the current Bachelor of Arts in Music degree but students want the recognition of the composition degree. Most other regional music programs with whom we share applicants offer a composition major.

Another issue raised was the large number of credits required for this proposed new major and the number of hours students are required to participate in performing groups. This was one of the issues that working group brought to Gerard Morris and Rob Hutchinson and discussed whether it is possible that performing group work not be required for music composition majors in every semester. Rob Hutchinson revised the curriculum guide for this new major and removed the performing group requirement from the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the curriculum which frees up one unit of activity credits. GP raised the

question of whether the number of activity units required is similar in student workload to comparative institutions. MS assured that this is typical of student experiences in schools of music. Discussion continued about the influence of accreditation requirements on the intensity of required student learning experiences. MS pointed out that at music conservatories student academic requirements are less rigorous, but our students come here seeking both performance experience and academic rigor, perhaps in other disciplines. Working group 1 recommended that the new major, Bachelor of Music in Composition, be approved.

The Music Composition Major program review was approved unanimously (WG report attached).

#### **Discussion of SIM proposal: Comparative Ethnic Studies in Visual Culture**

AB summarized the working group findings. The main question is that the faculty advisor is changing; therefore, the working group recommends that a letter from the replacement faculty advisor be submitted prior to approval. A question was raised as to whether this program of study could be achieved through another combination of majors/minors/emphases, and if it is mainly the name of the proposed SIM that this student desires. AB raised the question of whether we are seeing a proliferation of SIMs, and GP agreed and suggested that SIM proposals need to make a compelling case that the program of study can't be met with any other currently offered combination of majors/minors/emphases.

Discussion ensued, more generally, about the ability of faculty to support SIM proposals. JP commented that this proposal, as well as others that were recently reviewed by working group 2, had faculty letters that did not address all of the required components and may suggest that faculty don't have the resources and time to support some SIMs--particularly in situations where students have not prepared a full or well developed proposal.

After further discussion of this proposal, the committee determined that it had failed to make a convincing case that the student's educational goals could not be met with a SOAN major (and 4 electives). The committee noted that the student's specific interest as described in the SIM could serve as a great basis for their thesis. LS will contact the student to explain the committee's decision.

#### **Proposal to accept curricular review of Neuroscience Program (WG1)**

GP reported the findings of working group 1, summarizing that the review was impressive particularly with just one full time faculty and the large number of students served. There is a need for a course in computational neuroscience.

Of note, similar to other recent program reviews, inconsistencies on course syllabi were noted. A number of syllabi reviewed did not use the language, "student learning outcomes", and another set was missing the required university statements. GP also raised the question of the currency of course syllabi submitted for reviews, as some submitted for this review were from 2006 and 2009.

The 7 year curriculum review submitted by the Neuroscience interdisciplinary minor was approved unanimously pending the submission of current syllabi with student learning outcomes and university statements (WG report attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

**Report of the Curriculum Committee (WG1) on the  
proposal for a new major; Bachelor of Music in Composition  
February 26, 2019**

Curriculum Committee Working Group 1 (Kent Hooper, Julia Looper, Geoff Proehl, and Nate Jacobi) recommends approval of the Bachelor of Music in Composition that was submitted by the School of Music.

On February 4, 2019, following our close reading and detailed discussion of the submitted materials, we sent a request for a meeting with Gerard Morris and Rob Hutchinson from the School of Music. On February 8, 2019 we met and discussed the proposal. Following the meeting, the submission was modified. The working group discussed the modified proposal via email. On February 25, 2019 we completed our review.

Upon initial review of proposal for a new major the following became clear:

- The School of Music has been offering this sequence of courses within the current Bachelor of Arts in Music degree but students want the recognition of the composition degree.
- Most other regional music programs with whom we share applicants offer a composition major.

The working group identified 4 areas of concern:

- Students in the new major would be required to complete 108% of the NASM required 120 semester unit hours which may lead to burnout and prevent students from enrolling in broader coursework.
- Students in the new major would be required to participate in performing groups in every semester which may also lead to burnout and prevent students from enrolling in broader coursework.
- The courses required seemed very specific, possibly making it difficult for students to change their major after they have begun the program.
- Rob Hutchinson would have to shift his teaching load to cover this new major. Is this feasible?

During our meeting with Gerard Morris and Rob Hutchinson, we learned the following:

- Full time students at Puget Sound take 108% of the NASM required 120 semester unit hours. This number is simply our full time student load and is not specific to the School of Music or this proposed major.
- It is possible that performing group work is not required for music composition majors in every semester. Rob Hutchinson followed up on this after the meeting
- It is possible for students to switch out of the major if they would like even after the very music-focused 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

- There is broad School of Music support for this new major and the shift in teaching load that it would require.

Following our meeting, Rob Hutchinson sent out a revised Curriculum Guide for the new major (appendix 1) which removed the performing group requirement from the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the curriculum. This would free up 1 unit of activity credits for the students.

The working group consensus is that the School of Music has addressed our concerns and that the new major would be beneficial to the university.

Respectfully submitted,

Working Group 1; Kent Hooper, Julia Looper, Geoff Proehl, Nate Jacobi

**Report of the Curriculum Committee (WG1) on the  
Neuroscience Interdisciplinary Minor Seven-Year Review  
February 26, 2019**

Curriculum Committee Working Group 1 (Kent Hooper, Julia Looper, Geoff Proehl, Nate Jacobi) recommends the acceptance of the seven-year curriculum review submitted by the Neuroscience interdisciplinary minor.

On February 15, following our close reading and detailed discussion of the submitted materials, we sent a series of questions and comments to Siddharth Ramakrishnan. On February 22, we received a response. On February 24, we completed our review.

In the time period this review covered, Neuroscience made some changes to its curriculum and other practices, including:

- Moving from an Emphasis to a Minor;
- Making Neuroethics an integral part of the curriculum.;
- Increasing the amount of “Hands-on” components in the curriculum.

Working Group 1 appreciated the completeness of the review. We were particularly impressed by the research internship that is required for the minor, the large number of students (between 31 and 53 per year) served by a program that only has one half-time dedicated faculty, and the outside-the-box thinking that the program faculty uses to try to meet the needs of the students and program with minimal staffing.

The report states that to sustain the quality of the current program they would need to hire more dedicated faculty in the near future. After review, WG1 affirms this statement.

The Working Group would also offer the following suggestion for the program to consider:

As previously mentioned, the working group applauds the problem solving used by faculty to meet the program needs. We were particularly impressed by the need for a course in computational neuroscience. However, a previous proposed course was not approved by the curriculum committee. We would like to suggest that the program re-proposes a course on this topic taking the curriculum committee feedback into account, but maintaining and strongly conveying the need for a non-traditional model for adding this material.

Respectfully Submitted

Working Group 1; Kent Hooper, Julia Looper, Geoff Proehl, and Nate Jacobi