

Curriculum Committee Meeting

April 17, 2020

Convened at 3:30pm via GoogleMeet

Present: Brad Reich, Courtney Thatcher, Gary McCall, Jake Price, , Jennifer Pitonyak, Jonathan Stockdale, Julie Christoph, Kathleen Campbell, Maria Sampen, Jeff Tepper, Bill Barry, Lynette Claire, Oscar Secrist

CC Minutes, April 3 And 10, 2020 approved. There were no announcements.

The CC then turned its attention to the Foreign Language requirement. Thatcher, from Working Group A, introduced the topic, noting that there was before the committee the Senate's charge to develop a rubric and learning objectives for a foreign language requirement. They were invited to begin with the ad hoc proposal of May 7, 2019, developed by foreign language faculty. The discussion that ensued raised a number of concerns (loosely grouped below):

1. The learning objectives of the ad hoc proposal are (a) "an understanding of different cultures in ways that are 'lost in translation;'" (b) greater participation in our globalized world; and (c) a deeper appreciation of one's own language(s) and culture(s)." Could not non-foreign-language courses meet these objectives? It was suggested that the three proposed learning objectives needed some prior statement that defined the distinctive value of learning another language.
2. Some committee members felt the proposal was too restrictive in what it allowed to count as satisfying the requirement. AP courses did not count and, regardless of their proficiency in a second language, students have to take one year or its equivalent. That that equivalency has to be in a foreign language also taught at UPS seemed UPS-centric and dismissive of student experience.
3. Committee members also discussed whether the FL requirement was a proficiency or cultural competency requirement. If it were a proficiency requirement, what would constitute proficiency, and can a student really be proficient after only the first-year of a language? Moreover, purchasing and administering proficiency exams could be expensive. On the other hand, treating the requirement as a cultural competency requirement would open the doors to courses other than language courses for what is now a strictly foreign language requirement. Finally, a number of committee members raised concerns over how a student requiring accommodation would satisfy this requirement.

Working group A agreed to return to these issues informed by the discussion in the Curriculum Committee and to report back to the CC at next week's meeting (April 24). Working group A was especially exhorted to find some frame for the three objectives that helps to distinguish learning a foreign language from other types of learning.

With only minutes to spare, Christoph with lightning speed noted that "with the suspension of several VAP searches, there has been a lot of work happening to shift faculty and student schedules around to accommodate. As a result, it would be helpful to postpone the reopening of registration to Wednesday of next week (rather than Monday)." Accordingly, Christoph made the following motion:

The "Open Registration for Fall Begins (Continuing and Transfer Students)" date for Spring 2020 is postponed by two days to April 22, 2020.

The motion was seconded and passed.

Finally, Christoph moved the approval of the Department of Art and Art History petition

To allow students to double major in Art History and Studio Art, and to major in one discipline and minor in the other.

(The motion was seconded.) Christoph noted that many larger institutions allow for the double major in art history and studio art. She also commented that permission to major in both disciplines was similar to the ability of students to major in both math and computer science.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned a little bit after 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Barry

