

Curriculum Committee Minutes
Friday, March 23, 2012

In attendance: Terry Beck, Lisa Ferrari, Amanda Mifflin, Katie Mihalovich, Jonathan Stockdale, Brad Tomhave, Barbara Warren (Chair), Carolyn Weisz, Rand Worland, Steven Zopfi

The meeting was called to order at 8 am.

Announcements:

Warren announced that Julie Christoph, Director of the Center for Writing, Learning, and Teaching, requests the assistance of the committee in preparing for a faculty workshop in May. The workshop will support faculty members as they prepare syllabi for seminars in the new first-year formats. Christoph would like the committee to review a small number of proposals for the new SC1 and SC2 seminars, in order to have examples for the May workshop. Reviewing these syllabi would not constitute approval for Fall 2012, when the existing WR/SCIS system will still be in place. The committee agreed that the proposals should be due at the beginning of April to be reviewed by the end of the month. Warren said she would communicate this information to Christoph.

Weisz brought forth information about the “Wednesday at 4” panel to discuss diversity in the curriculum. She is still seeking faculty, especially scientists, to participate in that panel. Discussion followed concerning the diversity question in the 5-year curriculum review guidelines. The faculty Diversity Committee is discussing the wording of the question and plans to consult with the Curriculum Committee.

Minutes:

M/S/P to approve minutes from the previous meeting.

Working group reports:

Working Group One recommended the approval of one course based on their review, ALC 330, a core for Humanistic Approaches. Ferrari stated that, over Spring Break, she approved HIST 291 as a Humanistic Approaches core course after consulting with working group members via e-mail.

M/S/P to accept ALC 330.

Working Group Two recommended the approval of the committee for the approval of the Chemistry Department curriculum review. They announced they were working on the Geology Department review next Wednesday.

M/S/P to accept the Chemistry review.

Working Group Three reported that they have an outstanding syllabus for COMM 190 and are reviewing Engineering Dual Degree and Physics next. They recommended the approval of BUS 478 being renumbered to CONN 478 and moved to the Connections core.

M/S/P to accept CONN 478.

Working Group Four reported that they are still working on the Humanistic Approaches core.

Working Group Five reported that they are still working on the Mathematics/Computer Science review. The working group sent questions to the department, received responses, and will meet next week to review those responses.

Discussion of Charges from Senate:

Charge: "...to continue discussion of integration of a diversity component into core or graduation requirements in collaboration with the Chief Diversity Officer and the Faculty Diversity Committee;"

Several committee members expressed reservations about this charge. Weisz suggested that the scope of this charge is wide and that it is more than the committee is able to take on, given its other tasks. A less burdened body could give the question more careful treatment. Stockdale stated that the Diversity Committee would be a more appropriate body to address the charge. Worland suggested addressing the charge by reporting that the committee is unable to take on the discussion and, in any case, may not be the appropriate place for it.

Charge: "...to revise curriculum review guidelines in consultation with department and program heads;"

This charge was to be addressed by Working Group One. Ferrari will contact Brad Reich about the status of the charge.

Charge: "...to develop guiding principles for the Academic Standards Committee to use in identifying suitable substitute courses allowing students with learning disabilities to fulfill the foreign language requirement;"

Warren reminded the committee that this charge had been postponed from Fall 2012, since the university was searching for a new Disabilities Services director. Last semester, Lisa Hutchinson sent committee members a set of files with the history of this charge. Tomhave reported that the Academic Standards Committee has had difficulty determining what constitutes a reasonable substitute for completing the foreign language graduation requirement. Some students' disabilities preclude their studying a foreign language. To evaluate the reasonableness of a substitute, the ASC needs clarity on what the university hopes the foreign language requirement will do for students. For example, if the requirement is intended to promote cultural learning, that would suggest one kind of substitute coursework. If the requirement is intended to encourage students to think about how knowledge is filtered through language expression, that would suggest a different kind of substitute coursework. Worland asked whether the requirement could just be waived for students with certain disabilities. Tomhave replied that the university all students must meet all graduation requirements in order

to receive their degrees. Beck noted that the committee could benefit from input on this matter from colleagues in Foreign Languages and Literature. Warren will contact Diane Kelley or another FLL colleague to begin this discussion.

Charge: "...to address the discrepancy in the length of Fall and Spring semester"

Members of this subcommittee were not in attendance at this meeting. The status update will be deferred to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will be April 6, 2012.

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Mihalovich

Lisa Ferrari

Secretaries of the Day