

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 21, 2013 – 3:32-4:18 PM
Collins Memorial Library #020

Attendees: Terry Beck, Gwynne Brown, Jane Carlin, Julie Christoph, Lisa Hutchinson, Lisa Johnson (Secretary), Alison Tracy Hale, Martin Jackson, Tatiana Kaminsky (Chair), Alan Krause, Paul Loeb, Mike Spivey, Jonathan Stockdale, Barbara Warren

Meeting called to order by Kaminsky at 3:32 p.m.

Remarks from the Chair:

Kaminsky reported that the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) will receive a visit from George Erving to discuss Honors.

Kaminsky reported that we have a plan to wrap up Social Scientific Approaches core review. Kaminsky will be the lead. Ferrari, Warren, and Johnson have volunteered to help too.

Kaminsky reported that the only other thing outstanding for WG 1 is the African American Studies Review. English is also out, and it is Kaminsky's understanding that it will be one or the other, but both probably won't come in this year.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve minutes for 1/31/12.

Kaminsky changed the order of the Working Group (WG) reports to begin with **WG 3** and **WG 4**, which are now combined.

Loeb reported for WG 3. WG 3 recommends nine freshman seminars for approval:

- 1) Humanities 122, Bill Breitenbach, Utopia/Dystopia, SSI #1
- 2) Honors 150, Katherine Smith and Kristin Johnson, European Past Lives, SSI #2
- 3) History 129, Jennifer Neighbors, Mao's China: A Country in Revolution, SSI #1
- 4) SSI #1 and #2, Alison Tracy Hale, Urban America: problems and possibilities and Suburbia: Dream and Nightmare, respectively
- 5) Honors SSI #1, Denise Despres, New World Rhetorics
- 6) SSI #1 and #2, Julie Christoph, Gender, Literacy, and International Development
- 7) SSI #1 and #2, Amy Fisher, Electric Bodies--Experiment in the Age of Enlightenment
- 8) SS #1 and #2, Justin Tiehen, The Philosophy and Science of Human Nature

9) SS #1 and #2, Ann Putnam, The Liminal World: The Intersection of Dreams and Desire

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve courses listed above.

Hale reported from WG 4. WG 4 moves to approved three courses:

- 1) SSI#1 and #2, Bill Kupinse, Wild Things, and Wild by Nature, respectively
- 2) SSI#1 and #2, John Wesley, Comedy and Society
- 3) SSI#1 and #2, Brett Rogers, Agonies of Athens, and Democratic Labors in Athens and America

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve courses listed above.

Loeb said that another order of business was to add two sentences to the online descriptions of SSI courses. The paper bulletin descriptions of the courses will not change. The proposed language is as follows:

The First-Year Seminars at Puget Sound introduce students into an academic community and engage them in the process of scholarly inquiry. Each seminar is focused around a scholarly topic, set of questions, or theme, through which students engage with challenging texts and develop the writing, speaking, and information literacy capabilities essential to successful college-level work.

Jackson confirmed that this language would be online, after clicking on a course.

Hale said that there was a desire for more consistency and for the descriptions to be more enticing than just restating the rubric.

Hutchinson said that there has been discussion about changing the language in the print bulletin.

Jackson said that what is included in the print bulletin is more expansive than this language.

Loeb moved to add the two sentences noted above, if it is possible to do, to each of the course descriptions in the online bulletin.

Johnson asked why it was necessary.

Hale said that there is a need to see that this is a skills based course rather than simply a content based class.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve new language.

Jackson asked whether we are referring to the SSI courses as the first year seminars or as the seminars in scholarly inquiry.

Loeb said that they are both and the terms are synonymous.

Christoph said that most people nationally talk about these courses that way. But, the fact that transfer students take them seems to be inconsistent with the idea that they are first year seminars. Also, “first year” and “freshman” are labels that some faculty don’t like.

Brown said that “Seminars in Scholarly inquiry” comes to be SSI pretty quickly, and then people ask “What’s that?”

Stockdale reported for WG 2. WG 2 is ongoing with the Connections core review. Stockdale distributed the History Department Five Year Curriculum Review. Stockdale noted that the History department chose to answer the newly worded question regarding diversity. It wrote an answer related to student recruitment, but some of the WG 2 members were wondering if that also applies to faculty. History has had four hires. History wrote an addendum to address that aspect of diversity, too.

Beck reported for WG 5. WG 5 recommends approval of the following course:

Religion 211 Islam and America, and REL 212 Religion of Islam, by Matthew Ingalls
These courses meet the requirements for the Humanistic core.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve that class.

George Erving is a guest. He will be the Honors Director beginning next year. He is considering a merger between Honors and Humanities. He is trying to create a more integrated program with a new floor in the new residence hall, making Langlow a residence house. He is considering how these courses will fit together to create a coherent and integrated whole over the four years. Humanities has a minor now, but there are some classes that are core classes that could be cross listed. There is not only a curricular piece, but there is a residential piece. He is meeting with Jenny Rickard, who replaced George Mills, to discuss the program’s name, and how it compares with other programs in the Pacific Northwest that are similar, especially with the new residence hall as its epicenter. They are at an embryonic stage at the moment. Erving asked the UCC to please hold off recommending that the Senate consider a name change, because they would be worried about what would replace it. Erving noted that the name may be replaced after discussions with faculty. But, they do not want to change the name this spring, given the students that we are trying to yield. Andy Rex is still director of honors until July.

Stockdale asked about the possibility of combining Humanities and Honors. Is there a problem that this is a solution to? What is the motivation?

Erving said that one of the problems that it is a solution to keeping faculty for these programs, because it is hard to pull faculty who are needed in their home department to teach in honors. Another attractive feature is team teaching. Erving is looking at Whitman, Willamette, and Lewis and Clark to see what they have. He wants to show that this is something that we do that will make us distinctive and competitive.

Stockdale asked if there is redundancy between the two programs.

Erving said that there wasn't really redundancy. Honors is about going through the core. Humanities is just a hodgepodge of courses on the books that allowed faculty to teach outside of their discipline. The university said that it was OK to do that, but those courses must fulfill the core. The first step was to get a minor on board, which they now have done. The minor is a six course sequence. So, that is what Humanities does. Honors fulfills the core.

Kaminsky thanked Erving for his time.

Kaminsky reported for WG 1.

Kaminsky was on the Latin American Studies (LAS) review. The WG recommended accepting the curriculum review from LAS.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve LAS review.

Kaminsky said that the WG recommended that the syllabi include current information about emergency preparedness and the disability statement for the Honors program. Beyond that, the recommendation is to approve the Honors review.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve Honors review.

Loeb said that we are just reminding people about the emergency preparedness language. It is not optional.

Kaminsky said that the another issue regarding Honors is its name

Johnson asked for the institutional background or history regarding the interest in changing the Honors name.

Loeb said that this issue has never come up his five or six years of experience. It is not a general concern of UCC. However, such an issue is not out of line, either.

Beck said that Fine Arts Approaches Core was discussed as something that might change names, but that arose through or among those faculty in Fine Arts, rather than externally from us. We should probably table the name change issue with respect to Honors now.

Hale said that we can be part of the discussion.

Jackson said that the core belongs to the whole faculty. But, who owns the department name? For example, do we want to discuss a potential name change of Comparative Sociology? Do we want that department to bring its name change to us?

Johnson said that it is up to the Senate to review what we have done and to pick up on it if it wishes to do so.

Kaminsky said that she will bring it to Amy Spivey's attention.

Hutchinson said that the issue related to the potential name change of Honors can be added to the final report.

Hale said that the UCC could support Erving's effort to find a name that is distinctive about the program.

Loeb moved for the UCC to support Erving's advice that we come back to the question after Honors faculty members have had the time to consider options for a name change, and after they have brought it back to the UCC as a possible name change, thus not requesting that the Senate consider a name change for the program.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approved motion

Kaminsky said that we will meet next on March 7th.

Stockdale said that he will be emailing the History review to everyone. We should return to the issue concerning the diversity question later when the Diversity Committee comes up with language for us to consider. We will look at History review next meeting.

Jackson said that we have a new Chief Diversity Officer. It would be wise to have Michael involved in discussions about diversity.

Loeb confirmed that we can approve freshman seminars through March 7.

Kaminsky said that there is no other business.

Brown moved to adjourn 4:18 pm.

M/S/P to adjourn at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Johnson
Secretary, University Curriculum Committee