

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18th – 3:34-4:20
Collins Memorial Library, #020

Attendees: Terry Beck, Gwynne Brown, Julie Christoph, Lisa Ferrari, Sara Freeman, Lisa Hutchinson, Alison Tracy Hale, Tatiana Kaminsky (Chair), Alan Krause, Phoebe Smith, Mike Spivey, Jonathan Stockdale, Brad Tomhave, Barbara Warren

Meeting called to order by Kaminsky at 3:34

Krause assigned as Secretary for the meeting as Johnson was at a conference

Kaminsky apprised the committee of the Committee on Diversity's report that was shared with program directors on a proposed diversity requirement. This report does not create any work for the committee this year, but the committee should expect a charge associated with this report next year. The report is available to committee members.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to approve minutes for 4/4 with minor changes.

Ferrari asked the committee to consider approving a reduced curriculum committee that would meet during the summer to approve SSI courses that may be needed in fall 2013 to meet the needs of freshmen and sophomores needing to take the course.

Beck proposed that the approvals could wait until the entire committee meets in the fall if they are not needed for the Fall Semester.

Ferrari assumed that 1 or 2 additional approvals will be necessary to meet the need for SSIs in the fall.

Kaminsky asserted that the Associate Dean's office will determine if summer approval is necessary.

Hale volunteered to be on the summer committee.

Christoph was willing to be on the summer committee, if needed. Committee members suggested that Loeb, who was not in attendance, should also be asked, since he has served as the lead for Working Group 3.

Ferrari moved as follows: "if we need additional SSI offerings for fall semester, that those courses and only those courses would be reviewed by 2 committee members and the Associate

Dean and that any holdover courses will be reviewed in the fall.” The summer committee will recognize that it will be wise to get Joshi or Orlin to review the courses before the committee considers them, if at all possible.

Freeman requested that the summer committee report on their activity to the full committee during fall meetings.

M/S/P (14-0-0) to accept Ferrari’s proposal.

Beck reported for working group 5. The University’s accrediting agency asked the University to review the use of BA/BS when a single department awards the two degrees. Chemistry, Economics, and the Special Interdisciplinary Major (SIM) currently offer both degrees. After a review of the Bulletin and interviews with faculty in Chemistry and Economics, working group 5 concluded that the BS focuses on developing knowledge and skills to pursue graduate study in these two departments. The SIM contained no guidelines to determine whether a proposal should lead to a BA or a BS.

Beck proposed that a SIM proposal 1) address the type of degree typical in that area of study and that 2) if the SIM proposal is for a BS, that the proposal address how it will prepare the student for graduate study.

Brown inquired whether the SIM must justify a BA.

Freeman stated that a SIM should reference the type of a degree typically offered in a department.

Spivey stated that the BS could be the default in some departments.

Christoph stated that it was her understanding that students must study foreign language to earn a BA and that the BS is the default in many universities.

Freeman asserted that degree requirements with a language component lead to a BA and that degree requirements with a math component lead to a BS.

Ferrari recalled that Physics used to operate on such a distinction between requirements for foreign language leading to a BA and a requirement for math leading to a BS. But, as most serious students opted for a BS, the Physics department discontinued the BA.

Beck clarified that working group 5 did not investigate why English offers a BA, but asserted that different disciplines award different degrees. In relation to the SIM, some universities offer

degrees in the fields that students study in a SIM and that by referencing whether other universities offer a BA or a BS in the degree in question, SIM applicants could determine which degree to request.

Freeman reiterated that the working group's task was to differentiate between the BA and the BS in departments that offer both degrees. For Puget Sound, the BS represents a liberal arts degree. At other universities, the BS would not carry this implication. But, such a philosophical discussion of the meaning of a BA or a BS was not the group's charge.

Hale asserted that no consistency exists for such degrees across institutions.

Beck commented that the working group sought only to achieve clarity within these three disciplines (Economics, Chemistry, and SIM).

Ferrari added that the committee could request a Senate charge for next year of considering the role of the BS in a liberal arts degree, if the committee so desires.

M/S/P 14-0-0 to approve the working group report's on the BS/BA distinction in departments that offered both.

Beck presented the SIM review. The working group reviewed 14 SIM transcripts & 15 Curriculum Action Reports for the major since 1997. One student changed his/her major after filing a Curriculum Action Report, thus the discrepancy between the number of SIM transcripts and Curriculum Action Reports. The working group also surveyed faculty who had advised a SIM. Responses from five SIM advisors provided the following insights:

- all would repeat the experience with the right student;
- there was no set process to bring together the multiple advisors on each project;
- the SIM proved to be a positive experience for students;
- the SIM requires faculty time that is not counted
- weaknesses:
 - isolation for student;
 - if the advisor leaves, the student has little guidance to complete the SIM
- strengths:
 - flexibility
 - helps retain students
 - in some cases, the University subsequently created a degree in the area of the SIM
- the SIM guidelines are rigorous for students to meet, which is good

Beck recommended that the committee:

1. Maintain the SIM in its current form

2. Give attention to how the SIM committee works together
3. Provide guidelines on whether those who complete a SIM are awarded a BA or a BS.

Beck moved that the committee accept this recommendation.

Kaminsky asked who would specify guidelines.

Hutchinson indicated that guidelines were described in the Bulletin, that such a change would require a change in the Bulletin, and that working group 5 will need to draft language in the bulletin. Beck agreed to reword the guidelines to be consistent with the working group's recommendations.

M/S/P 14-0-0 to accept the working group's report on the SIM.

Hale offered that working group 4's members met with administrators and professors involved with the academic internship program and that they will submit a report for the 05/02/13 curriculum committee meeting.

Christoph reported that working group 3 is working on the review of the Physics Department's dual degree program.

Ferrari reported that the review of the Physics Department's dual degree program was originally submitted last year, but that the associate dean's office had requested some clarifications before the review was sent to a working group. The clarifications were received in summer 2012, and were submitted to the working group this year.

Christoph reported on the working group's discussion of the program review. She moved that the committee accept the dual-degree engineering program review and state its support for the program's intention to conduct further assessment by contacting its alumni. Because not all committee members had seen the program's review, Christoph withdrew her motion. The committee will vote on the matter at its next meeting, if the review materials are made available to committee members, or the vote can be held over until next semester.

Christoph reported for working groups 3 & 4 and requested that SSI 125, Geomythology of Ancient Catastrophes, be approved

M/S/P 14-0-0 to accept the working group's recommendation.

Spivey from working group 2 reported on the Art Department curriculum review. The working group recommended that the Art Department's review be accepted.

M/S/P 14-0-0 to accept the working group's recommendation.

The working group also brought up an issue about the 9 course limits for majors, a guideline created in 1983. The art department requires 11 courses and many other departments also require over 9 courses. During the review process, departments need to adhere to the 9 course limit or provide a rationale for the additional required courses in the major. The working group questioned whether the 9 unit limit was still appropriate and if further consideration of this issue would be an appropriate Senate charge for the curriculum committee next year.

Spivey reported that the Senate rescinded the committee's charge to work with the International Education Committee on guidelines for granting credit for faculty-led study abroad programs.

Stockdale corrected that the Senate has not officially rescinded the charge, but when he and Peter Wimberger, the International Education Committee chair, asked the Senate to clarify the charge, the Senate responded that it has no questions about the program.

Kaminsky reported on behalf of working group 1 and said that a meeting with the faculty from the Social Scientific Approaches core was scheduled for 04/23/13. The working group would distribute a report about the core review prior to the next meeting.

Kaminsky reminded the committee that the final meeting of the year would be held on May 2nd.

Brown moved to adjourn.

M/S/P to adjourn at 4:20

Respectfully submitted

Alan Krause

Substitute for the secretary of the University Curriculum Committee