

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

3 October 2008 (Friday)

Wheelock Student Center 101

Present: Jane Brazell, Alyce DeMarais, Greg Elliott, Leon Grunberg, Fred Hamel, Kent Hooper, Kriszta Kotsis, Mary Rose Lamb, Lynda Livingston (Chair), Paul Loeb, Bob Matthews, John McCuiston, Brad Richards, Lori Ricigliano, Florence Sandler, Brad Tomhave, Kurt Walls, Barbara Warren

Call to order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00.

Opening remarks: There were no opening remarks.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2008: The minutes of the September 12, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Reports of working groups:

Working Group 2:

Warren reporting for Working Group 2 proposed the following courses for inclusion in the Scholarly and Creative Inquiry core to be taught in Spring 2009:

1. **Music 122: Punk Music**, proposed by Paul Harris (Music)
2. **History 138: Peasants: The Unknown Majority of Humankind**, proposed by Walter Lowrie (History)
3. **History 136: Seeing the World: Medieval Travelers**, proposed by Julie Tanaka (History)
4. **Comparative Sociology 100: Books, Beer and B+'s: Sociological Insights Into College Life**, proposed by Benjamin Lewin (Comparative Sociology)

After some discussion, **Sandler M/S/P** to approve the above courses. The discussion included: the subcommittee asked that Paul Harris include reference to the seminar objectives in his syllabus; regarding CSOC 100, Hamel noted that the subject matter is very "close" to the students' experience and this may make it difficult to develop meaningful reflection on the topic, especially if the course is being taught for the first time. DeMarais will relay the committee's suggestions to the proposers.

Working Group 3:

Hamel and **Sandler** reporting for Working Group 3 proposed **STS 333: Evolution and Ethics**, proposed by Kristin Johnson (Science and Technology) and Ariela Tubert (Philosophy) for the Connections core.

Sandler M/S/P approval of this course.

DeMarais reminded the working groups of the need to start the review of core areas.

Calendar Discussion

The Chair then opened discussion of the Academic Calendar. We thought that one issue to consider is the start of the Spring 2013 semester. The current guidelines call for the Spring term to begin after the celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday, but that Spring 2013 may present some problem with this rule because we anticipated it would push the end date too far into May. To bring the end date into mid-May would require that an exception be made. **Lamb** urged that if a rule is creating problems, the rule should be changed, and that we should not proceed by making exceptions to the rule. **Walls** noted that the semester seemed to be longer than usual. **DeMarais** will check the proposed dates for the 2012-2013 year and bring the issue back to the committee.

After some discussion **Sandler M/S/P** to defer discussion until our next meeting.

Adjournment

Kotsis moved that we adjourn, and we did adjourn at 8:21.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Matthews