

Curriculum Committee Minutes 10/12/09

Brad Reich – Situational Scribe

Derek Buescher - Chair

Present: Derek Buescher, Alyce DeMarais, Brad Dillman, Greg Elliott, Leon Grunberg, Kent Hooper, Alisa Kessel, Kriszta Kotsis, Brad Reich, Kurt Walls, Barbara Warren.

Visitor: Lori Ricigliano

Called to Order 12:04.

Derek announced that the discussion would largely follow the previously provided agenda. He further announced that he was in the process of reviewing the minutes of last year's meetings.

Motion and second for approval of minutes of meeting of 9/28. Approved unanimously.

The committee then discussed the charges issued from the Faculty Senate:

1. Continue consideration of the foreign language and upper-division graduation requirements.
2. Continue consideration of changes to the Social Scientific Approaches core area rubric.
3. Continue review of the Fine Arts and Humanistic Approaches.
4. Continue evaluation of the Connections rubric.
5. Consider, in consultations with ASC, the policy nature and purpose of independent study.
6. Continue evaluation of appropriate number of allowable activity credits.
7. Continue working in consultation with ASC to incorporate scholastic honesty expectations into the freshman seminars delivery.

Charges 1-3 - Derek will email materials re: core review clarification charge when he has them. Alyce will provide materials to the working groups.

Charge 4 – Evaluation of Connections Rubric.

General discussion of different perspectives on this topic. Possible options include changing to thematic concentration rather than inter-disciplinary course or removing the requirement entirely .

Discussion – concerns with students using Connections courses (lacking pre-requisites) to satisfy upper division electives outside their majors.

Discussion – the current Connections is a result of then existing “Comparative Values” and “Science and Context” getting “smushed” together into a hybrid.

Alyce – offered to try to find any additional past discussion/information.

Brad later recommended Lynda Livingston as a good resource for past discussion on this topic.

Charge 5 – The Policy and Nature of Independent Studies.

Some discussion about independent study; see discussion of relationship to activity units (below).

Charge 6 – Allowable Activity Credits.

Currently activity credits are limited to a total of 1.5 units.

Discussion – should activity credit be changed to a whole number (ie 1 or 2)?

Discussion – this topic has been discussed and tabled in the past (in the context of reviewing the internship program; no changes were made to accommodate cooperative education as activity units).

Discussion – it is hard to find ½ credit academic units under the current curriculum.

Discussion – some students “fill in” their units to graduation by using 0.5 credit independent studies. Some argue this is not the intended, or appropriate, use of independent study.

Charge 7 – Scholastic honesty expectations in first-year seminar delivery:

Derek proposed taking the revised seminar rubrics back to the full faculty. When the rubrics were brought before the faculty last year, approval of the language was tabled as it was thought that the rubric language was part of a “bigger package” addressing academic honesty being assembled by the Academic Standards Committee (ASC). Derek has consulted with the ASC chair and suggests we bring the language back to the full faculty. The committee agreed.

M/S/P A point of clarification that the term “academic” should precede the word “integrity” in the first paragraph of the Scholarly and Creative Inquiry rubric.

The committee turned to agenda Item 8: Discussed Upper Division Electives:

Discussion – students are taking upper division electives outside of their first majors, but still within their major departments.

Discussion – this “loophole” was known when the original terms were adopted.

Discussion – the original purpose of upper division electives was to increase educational breadth.

Discussion – students should be able to take whatever they want.

Discussion – could require students to take upper division electives entirely outside of their major departments.

Discussion – this option is problematic for majors (such as FLIA) that are already interdisciplinary.

Discussion – this seems tied to the Connections issue and the proper role of courses outside the major.

Discussion – study abroad also plays into this discussion.

Derek – would like permission to attempt to draft language for general and specific (the scribe’s terms) situations. The committee agreed.

Working Group Reports:

Group 1: HUM 367 (Word and Image) – motion for approval, seconded, unanimous approval as a Fine Arts Approaches core course.

Group 2: STS 155 (Scientific Controversy), STS 166 (Science and Theatre), MUS 124 (The Beatles vs. US: Comparative Aesthetics of 60s and 80s Rock Music), and

MUS 125 (Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley: The Image of Kings) all motioned for approval (separately), seconded, unanimously approved as Scholarly and Creative Inquiry Seminars.

Group 3: LAS 387 (Art and Revolution in Latin America), STS 375 (Science and Politics), CONN 481 (Gamblers, Liars, and Cheats), and CONN 370 (The Good Life) all motioned for approval (separately), seconded, approved as Connections courses.

Group 4 – no report.

Group 5 – no report.

12:59 – meeting adjourned.