

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
30 March 2007 (Friday)
Misner Room

Present: Suzanne Barnett, Elisabeth Benard, Brad Dillman, Mary Rose Lamb, Grace Livingston, Bob Matthews, John McCuiston, Brad Richards, Elise Richman, Michelle Salter '07, Florence Sandler, David Scott, Christine Smith, Kurt Walls, Lisa Wood (Chair), Alyce DeMarais, Lori Blake (for Brad Tomhave), Carrie Washburn

Not present: Lynda Livingston, Paul Loeb, Stuart Smithers, Lori Ricigliano

Call to order. Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Remarks by the Chair

- (1) **Today's meeting, like the last meeting, will proceed with a modification of Robert's Rules of Order, in that a motion will need no second and can lead immediately to discussion and then vote. Exception: "Discussion points" will need a second.**
- (2) At this meeting of the committee we must set the dates of the next meetings. (Later in the meeting the committee decided on **13 April and 20 April.**)
- (3) Wood said that she had drafted a very simple questionnaire for committee members to fill out today toward determination of the level of workload of the committee for the report to the Faculty Senate.

Minutes. The committee M/P approval of the minutes for the meeting of 2 March 2007.

Working Groups (WG). Wood called on leads of WG for reports of activity under way. Note: In the parenthesized list of tasks for each group NON-BOLD ITEMS show work already completed or no longer in active process for this year.

- **WG ONE (Chemistry / Humanistic Approaches):** Dillman (lead) presented motions to accept the **CHEMISTRY** five-year review and also the five-year review of the **HUMANISTIC APPROACHES (HM)** core. (*See expansion, with MOTIONS, below.*)*
- **WG TWO (Latin American Studies / Fine Arts Approaches / Exercise Science):** Lamb (lead) reported that the group is planning its meeting with faculty teaching in the **FINE ARTS APPROACHES (FN)** core on Tuesday, 10 April.
- **WG THREE (English / Geology / W&R and SCIS Seminars / Mathematics and Computer Science standard [non-contract] majors):** Benard said that the group has nothing to report. The only work left would be a possible proposal for a first-year seminar (none is expected).
- **WG FOUR (History / Physics / Connections):** Scott (lead) said that the group is meeting later today and next week to decide how to bring the **CONNECTIONS** core approval process to the full Curriculum Committee.
- **WG FIVE (Academic Internship and Cooperative Education / SIM / ad hoc other core / 3-2 dual degree programs / activity v. academic credit):** Smith (lead) reported that the group has been in communication with the Office of Career and Employment Services (CES) about the five-year review of the **ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** and the **COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM** and is ready to recommend to the CES some issues in need of attention. Wood suggested that no matter when this matter comes before the committee we should invite colleagues in CES.

DeMarais pointed out that the Curriculum Committee is "*not reviewing the program but the courses*," which caused Barnett to ask why this is so, in view of the committee's review of "departments and programs." DeMarais said that this program is different because it is not the same as departments, it is not faculty supervised even though a seminar (Internship 497/498) or Cooperative Education 499 is required. Only these courses are Curriculum Committee business, but CES and faculty are very interested in collaboration.

Smith asked why the program itself is *not* in the purview of the Curriculum Committee. DeMarais said that the reason is "hybridization"--courses based on internships. Washburn added that "it's the history": Internships used to be in Academic and Career Advising, but changes a few years ago split off internships to the newly created CES, which does not have ties with faculty but does have academic listings and credit so we need to review courses. This is the system we have now, and we may not now have the time to reassess it. Wood said that we can *talk* with each other (faculty and CES).

DeMarais said the program was reviewed and the review involved Lisa Wood (Psychology) and Karen Zediker (Visiting Assistant Professor, Communication Studies). Wood said that the program involves learning experiences that are not "academic," but we do have authority over courses and have looked at them. Washburn said that the Curriculum Committee does approve internship guidelines, last updated in 2001.

Barnett asked why Wood and Zediker were involved in the review. DeMarais said that Zediker teaches the Internship seminar and that Wood is a faculty member concerned about programs that are both academic and non-academic. Susan Stewart (Business and Leadership) also has worked with the Internship program.

Wood said that we can talk about Internship and Cooperative Education issues at the next meeting and then invite CES to a subsequent meeting.

***WG ONE.** The committee took the following two actions:

ACTION Dillman M/P to accept the Chemistry five-year review.

Dillman commented that the group urges the department to proceed with plans for assessment and suggested tying individual course assessments to the objectives for student learning and overall goals of the program.

ACTION Dillman M/P that the Curriculum Committee accept the Working Group Two report on the Humanistic Approaches core [five-year] review.

Dillman explained that the group (1) reviewed syllabi of courses that fulfill the HM core, (2) reviewed responses to a questionnaire sent to faculty teaching in the HM core, and (3) met with faculty who teach in the HM core. Dillman said that faculty teaching in the HM core are generally pleased with the way the courses are going and feel that students are learning. The courses are successfully meeting the core guidelines, and the group has no recommendations for changes.

Topics that surfaced in the faculty dinner conversation included a wish for smaller classes in the HM core, concern about the perception among some students that core courses should be "easier" and a desire to dispel that myth, worry that student advisors may guide advisees to courses that are seen as "easy, and concern about the level of preparedness of transfer students for HM courses. Dillman said that he noted the dearth of HM courses that include beliefs and values in the Muslim world, although HM faculty felt that the core does offer some diversity nonetheless. Faculty said that while students in HM core may be unsure of the core objectives upon entry into a course they do have a sense of the function of the core area by the end of the course.

With regard to the concern about student advisors, DeMarais stated that a process is under way involving Jack Roundy (Director, Academic Advising) and the Peer Advisor Coordinator.

In general discussion in response to Dillman's report, Washburn recalled that years ago, when "assessment" became an issue and the Curriculum Committee was discussing how to assess the curriculum, one idea, done in Art courses more than elsewhere, was to put the objectives of the core area "up front and center" in order to clarify what the core course is to accomplish. DeMarais brought up the fact that some HM courses fulfill departmental or program requirements, creating some tension about how to accommodate the double function of such an HM course. Wood expressed a "higher order concern," that the HM core is something that a department might identify for the handling of primary source materials and the underpinnings of existence; students should be brought to recognize this core area as not just "core" but meaningful in a broader philosophical realm.

Comparative Sociology. DeMarais said that she has received a request from the Department of Comparative Sociology to postpone the five-year review from 2007-08 to 2008-09 because of new hires. Of two tenure-line vacancies, one was filled by hiring this spring; but one is not yet filled. The review is dependent on new tenure-line faculty. The committee **M/P to accept the department's request for postponement of the five-year review to 2008-09.**

Adjournment. At 9:51 a.m. McCuiston M/P adjournment.

Respectfully submitted
Suzanne W. Barnett
(submitted 9 April 2007)

APPENDIX

Curriculum Committee Working Groups 2006-07 (UPDATED LIST, 4/6/2007)

Note: NON-BOLD ITEMS in the list of tasks represent work already completed or no longer in active process for this year.

WORKING GROUP ONE: Chemistry / Humanistic Approaches

Brad Dillman (Lead)
Florence Sandler
Brad Tomhave
Alyce DeMarais

WORKING GROUP TWO: Latin American Studies / **Fine Arts Approaches** / Exercise Science

Mary Rose Lamb (Lead)
Grace Livingston
Stuart Smithers
Alyce DeMarais

WORKING GROUP THREE: English / Geology / W&R and SCIS Seminars / Mathematics and Computer Science standard (non-contract) majors

Paul Loeb (Lead)
Elisabeth Benard
Bob Matthews
Elise Richman
Alyce DeMarais

WORKING GROUP FOUR: History / Physics / Connections

David Scott (Lead)
Lynda Livingston
Brad Richards
Kurt Walls
Alyce DeMarais

**WORKING GROUP FIVE: Academic Internship and Cooperative Education / SIM / ad hoc
other core / 3-2 dual degree programs / activity v. academic credit**

Christine Smith (Lead)
John McCuiston
Brad Tomhave
Alyce DeMarais