

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
4 October 2006 (Wednesday)
Misner Room

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

Not present: Lynda Livingston (subcommittee service only this fall)

Call to order. Because of the slightly late arrival of Chair Wood caused by unavoidable transportation delay, DeMarais called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and presided until Wood took over at 8:10.

Minutes. The committee M/S/P approval of the minutes for the meeting of 20 September 2006.

Announcement: Academic Standards Committee (ASC) policy on retaking a First-Year Seminar in order to clear a grade of F or WF. Tomhave reported that the Academic Standards Committee took action to permit a student who received a grade of F or WF in a Writing and Rhetoric seminar or in a Scholarly and Creative Writing seminar to retake the same seminar or to take any other seminar in the same core rubric in order to earn a higher grade and thus eliminate the negative effect of the F or WF on the GPA. (*The ASC motion as provided by Tomhave appears below as Appendix I.*)

Working Groups (WG) / subcommittees. Wood called on chairs of WG / subcommittees for reports of activity under way.

- WG ONE (Chemistry / Humanistic Approaches): No report.
- WG TWO (Latin American Studies / Fine Arts Approaches): No report.
- WG THREE (English / Geology / W&R and SCIS Seminars): Loeb reported that the group considered and recommends approval of two First-Year Seminars (*see expansion, with MOTION, below*).*
- WG FOUR (History / Physics / Connections): Scott reported that the group has considered a Connections course and recommends approval (*see expansion, with MOTION, below*).**
- WG FIVE (Internship / SIM / Ad Hoc other core): No report, but C, Smith said that she would meet later today with Kim McDowell, Director of Career and Employment Services, to talk about the Internship Program.

**WG THREE / W&R AND SCIS SEMINARS.* Loeb identified the two courses, one proposed for the SCIS core and one proposed for the W&R core, and on behalf of the group recommended these courses for approval by the full committee.

ACTION **Loeb M/S/P approval of two courses:**

- **Geology 115 - Geomythology of Ancient Catastrophes, proposed by Jeff Tepper, for the Scholarly and Creative Inquiry core;**
- **History 115 - The Crusades, proposed by Katherine Smith, for the Writing and Rhetoric core.**

****WG FOUR / CONNECTIONS.** [Wood now presiding]. Scott distributed copies of a handout with a summary of the group's concluding judgment of a Connections course proposal and a motion for approval. The handout also included Scott's email exchange with the proposer, Carolyn Weisz. Informed by Weisz's explanation of how the final version of the syllabus will better reflect multiple perspectives within the two disciplines of literature and psychology, the group agreed unanimously to recommend approval of the course by the full committee.

ACTION **Scott M/S/P that the Curriculum Committee accepts the communication between Carolyn Weisz and David Scott dated '06/09/2 as part of the curriculum proposal for CONN 325 - The Experience of Prejudice [proposed by Carolyn Weisz (Psychology)] and certifies the course as satisfying the Connections Core.** NOTE: This motion passed with two abstentions.

Discussion of the motion raised issues of both course content and committee procedures (and also pointed to some end-sentence words mysteriously dropped from the Scott-Weisz email messages as presented in the handout). Sandler wanted further clarification of the two "literary lenses" Weisz outlined in her message to Scott, and Loeb wondered if such a message should be formally moved into the proposal. Barnett said that such communications become part of the proposal file automatically as subcommittee chairs share them with Washburn, also that the practice of the full committee has been to trust the subcommittee to judge whether a proposer's response to subcommittee inquiry is satisfactory. Washburn affirmed that the full committee usually does not re-do the work of a subcommittee.

Report from the Interim Study Abroad Committee (ISAC). DeMarais distributed copies of a handout listing new study abroad programs approved by ISAC in May and September of this year. [Discussion revealed the need for a bit more information on the handout, and DeMarais sent a revised version to committee members after the meeting.] (*The revised version of the ISAC action list provided by DeMarais appears below as Appendix II.*)

Committee members asked about the categories of programs (Partner Programs and Approved Programs), and DeMarais explained (see Appendix II, below). In response to Dillman's inquiry about students' access to these newly added programs, DeMarais said that students can find out about these programs in the Office of International Programs. Washburn asked if the Curriculum Committee should ratify the work of ISAC in adding new programs, or should our committee just be "informed" by ISAC. By what means does the committee agree that these programs are approved? DeMarais replied that courses in the programs are checked course by course, and this amounts to ratification of ISAC actions regarding programs.

Implementation of the upper division requirement for graduation. The requirement appears as item III.H in the Curriculum Statement of 17 April 2001:

"In order to receive the baccalaureate degree from the University of Puget Sound, a student must have...Earned at least three units outside the first major at the upper division level, which is understood to be 300 or 400 level courses or 200 level courses with at least two prerequisites...."

Discussion that was part of the process of faculty approval of this requirement appears in the minutes for the Faculty Meeting of 4 April 2001.

Wood expressed concern that a student can use a Connections course in partial fulfillment of this requirement, which could mean that a student can use a Connections course taught by a member of the student's major department to meet the requirement. As well, a double major or a minor can enable the student to meet the requirement. Minutes of the relevant Faculty Meeting indicate that some colleagues expressed concern that the requirement would *encourage* double majors. Benard stated that more students seem to be doing double majors now. Sandler asked if we have any data to see whether students are taking more 300 level courses now.

Wood called on Tomhave, who distributed copies of a handout explaining the practice of the Registrar's Office in determining the fulfillment of the requirement:

"In practice, the Registrar's Office identifies courses that are 'inside' the major leaving everything not so defined as 'outside' the major."

The handout lists seven ways for a course to be inside the major. (*The handout appears below as Appendix III.*)

In response to Wood's inquiry about whether any problems have surfaced in implementing the requirement, Tomhave suggested that (a) students have appealed to the Academic Standards Committee as to what is upper division and (b) faculty are not sure what the requirement means because "inside" and "outside" a major are not well defined.

Barnett M/S ratification of current practices of the Registrar's Office with regard to the implementation of the upper division requirement as delineated in the handout distributed by Tomhave.

In discussion Dillman stated a particular problem in the International Political Economy (IPE) major, for all 47 allowable electives in multiple departments [from which a student must select at least 3] are considered by the Registrar's Office as inside the major. This limits the range of options for IPE students in meeting the requirement of upper division courses outside the major.

Matthews summarized two issues as (a) whether the current implementation of the requirement has met the intent of faculty legislation and (b) how to accommodate a highly interdisciplinary major. Wood added that a question is *what is in the major* versus *what is in the department*.

In view of issues in need of further discussion and possible resolution, **Matthews M/S/P to table Barnett's motion.**

Adjournment. At 8:56 a.m. McCuiston M/S/P to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne W. Barnett
(submitted 6 October 2006)

Appendix I
Motion passed by Academic Standards Committee on September 21, 2006

A student who receives an F or WF grade for a Writing and Rhetoric Seminar may repeat that course by taking any other Writing and Rhetoric Seminar for which the student is eligible to enroll.

Similarly, a student who receives an F or WF grade for a Scholarly and Creative Inquiry Seminar may repeat that course by taking any other Scholarly and Creative Inquiry Seminar for which the student is eligible to enroll.

Appendix II
Study Abroad Programs Approved by the Interim Study Abroad Committee (ISAC)
(List assembled by Alyce DeMarais)

May 2006

UPS Taiwan Summer Program at Tunghai University (Partner*)

September 12, 2006:

IES** India (Delhi), effective fall 2007 (Partner)

IES Milan summer, effective summer 2007 (Partner)
IES Melbourne summer, effective summer 2007 (Partner)
IES Rome summer, effective summer 2007 (Partner)
SIT[†] Oman, effective spring 2007 (Approved^{††})
Denmark International Studies Program (DIS) summer, effective summer 2007 (Approved)

September 26, 2006

IES Tokyo summer, effective summer 2007 (Partner)
IES Barcelona summer, effective summer 2007 (Partner)
IES Amsterdam, effective fall 2007 (Partner)

*Partner Programs are administered through an exchange agreement, a direct enrollment agreement, or an association of which Puget Sound is a continuing member. Students pay Puget Sound tuition and fees and retain university financial aid as well as state and federal financial aid.

**IES = Institute for the International Education of Students

[†]SIT = School for International Training

^{††}Approved Programs are from providers that have no formal relationship with Puget Sound. Students pay program costs directly to the program sponsor and forego Puget Sound financial aid (but may retain state and/or federal financial aid).

Appendix III

Upper Division Requirement for Graduation

(Statement provided by Brad Tomhave, Associate Registrar)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

General

In order to receive the baccalaureate degree from the University of Puget Sound, a student must have

- H. Earned at least three academic units outside the first major at the upper division level, which is understood to be 300 or 400-level courses or 200-level courses with at least two prerequisites;

In practice, the Registrar's Office identifies courses that are "inside" the major leaving everything not so defined as "outside" the major.

There are 7 ways for a course to be inside the major:

1. Be specifically required as published. For example, the Art major with a studio emphasis specifically requires ART 450.
2. Be specifically required as approved. For example, the Business major requires 2 electives from the social sciences or humanities selected with the advisor's approval.
3. Be labeled with the major's department and in list from which a student must select a subset. For example, the Art major with a history emphasis must select at least 4 courses from a list of 16 art history courses making all 16 inside the major.
4. Similarly, be a department elective in a major that requires electives. For example, Biology requires 3 electives. Any course that qualifies as such an elective is inside the major.

5. Be among the allowable electives in an interdisciplinary major offered by a program. For example, the International Political Economy major has 47 electives from which a student must select at least 3 and all such electives are within the major. Similarly, the Natural Science majors have electives to augment the courses the departmental requirements of the major. All these electives are inside the major.
6. Be a required support course. For example, the Biology major requires CHEM 250 Organic Chemistry.
7. Be a non-departmental support course applied to the major. For example, the Art major with the art history emphasis requires 2 units of Modern Language. The 2 units selected for this requirement are within the major. Similarly, the Foreign Language/International Affairs major has a core of 8 department units that is supplemented by 6 non-department units selected from more than 20 options. The 6 courses selected are inside the major.