

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
30 September 2006 (Thursday)
McCormick Room

Present: Suzanne Barnett, Carlo Bonura, Brad Dillman, Ashley Gray (Student), Wade Hands, Zaixin Hong, Jim Jasinski (Chair), David Lupher, Christine Smith, Linda Williams, Alyce DeMarais, Brad Tomhave, Carrie Washburn

Not present: Grace Livingston, Richard Martin III (Student), Karim Ochosi

Chair Jasinski began the meeting soon after 8:00 a.m.

Minutes. The minutes for the meeting of 23 March 2006 are available as submitted by Wade Hands, but Committee members had not received notice of the posting prior to the meeting on 30 March. Jasinski said that this set of minutes can get approval at the meeting on 6 April.

Announcements

NEUROSCIENCE. Jasinski announced his appointment of a new subcommittee to begin review of the proposed interdisciplinary transcript-designation emphasis program in Neuroscience. Subcommittee members are Hong (Chair), Bonura, DeMarais, and Tomhave. Jasinski invited the subcommittee to see if it can complete its review by the Curriculum Committee meeting of 13 April. If that timing is too soon, the review should hold over until this fall. The full Committee meeting on 20 April, likely the last meeting this year, has as its agenda the consideration of the year-end Committee report and possibilities for the Committee's charges for 2006-07.

CIEE. In response to an inquiry, DeMarais clarified that CIEE stands for Council of International Education, which operates study-abroad programs.

Subcommittee Reports

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS. Bonura, subcommittee chair (other members Hands, Hong, and DeMarais), reported as follows:

ACTION **Bonura M/S/P approval of Biology 140 - Novel Genetics, proposed by Mary Rose Lamb, for the SCIS core.**

Bonura added that 3 proposals remain on deck, but 2 are incomplete because they lack cover memos. The third proposal is complete, and the subcommittee should have a recommendation at the meeting of 6 April.

CONNECTIONS. Lupher's report (appended to these minutes) led to action as follows:

ACTION **Lupher M/S/P approval of African American Studies 355 - African-American Women in American History), proposed by Nancy Bristow, for Connections core status.**

ACTION **Lupher M/S/P approval of Environmental Studies 335 - Thinking About Biodiversity, proposed by Joel Elliott, for Connections core status.**

Lupher commended both proposals, each of which had the subcommittee's unanimous agreement. Lupher added that one more Connections course proposal is under consideration.

3-2 report and discussion

With introductory comments by Jasinski and DeMarais, the Committee addressed the matter of "3-2" curricular programs, one of which exists in the **Occupational Therapy** program in order to permit a student to start the OT master's degree program in the senior year of undergraduate study and then to complete the graduate degree program in one more year. [This situation came to light with the recent review and reaffirmation of the OT program.]

A 3-2 arrangement also defines the **Dual Degree in Engineering** program, in which a student leaves Puget Sound after three years and does a final undergraduate year and one more undergraduate year in engineering at an appropriate other institution (Washington University, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California are among the institutions with which Puget Sound has agreements to serve this program) to end up with two bachelor's degrees, one from Puget Sound and one from the other institution. In both the 3-2 OT program and the 3-2 Dual Degree Engineering program, Puget Sound issues a baccalaureate degree.

DeMarais reported that the 3-2 program in OT came into existence with the switch to the master's-degree-only in OT. She stated that she is unsure by what process the 3-2 arrangement was approved. Tomhave said that the approval process involved OT faculty, the Academic Dean, and the Office of Admission.

DeMarais called attention to a sample transcript for a 3-2 OT student. All courses in the senior year are 600-level OT courses. DeMarais noted that completing an undergraduate major requiring a senior thesis makes the 3-2 program even more difficult because the thesis must be completed prior to the senior year. In response to an inquiry, Washburn explained that senior-year courses in the Dual Degree Engineering program, by contrast, are undergraduate courses, although they are specialized professional engineering courses.

In discussion, the Committee reached three significant realizations with reference to the 3-2 OT program: (1) The 3-2 OT student takes a full set of 600-level courses in the senior year of undergraduate study, and these courses are neither electives nor available to other undergraduate students. (2) In effect, a 3-2 OT student receives a liberal arts bachelor's degree after only three years of study, rather than the usual four years. (3) This arrangement seems insistent with the liberal arts mission of Puget Sound.

On this last point, Lupher raised the question of whether outside agencies that classify and rank liberal arts colleges would recognize Puget Sound as a "liberal arts college" if we offer this 3-2 OT arrangement. DeMarais responded that different lists exist and Puget Sound is a liberal arts college on some lists. She added that institutions that deliberately want to assure liberal arts college status are moving away from 3-2 programs.

Other comments that surfaced included the following: The Physical Therapy program was a 3-3 program for fourteen years, until the switch to the doctorate-only degree in PT (Washburn). The Dual Degree Engineering 3-2 arrangement dates from 1982 and the decision that an engineering program as such was inconsistent with the liberal arts mission of Puget Sound (DeMarais). The Dual Degree Engineering program enables students to enter the "hot" field of engineering (Hong). Thus the 3-2 engineering program helps a student complete an engineering degree in a shorter time and also helps a student financially by enabling earlier entry into an engineering career (DeMarais).

Jasinski and others reached definition of issues involved in the 3-2 arrangements: (1) Who determines what electives a Puget Sound undergraduate can take? (2) The central process in a 3-2 arrangement seems to be "double counting" of credits. (3) The 600-level courses taken in the senior year in the 3-2 OT program are not available to other undergraduate students.

With only three more meetings of the Curriculum Committee this year, the 3-2 discussion cannot reach conclusion this year. The 3-2 matter can, however, be on the Committee's list of charges for 2006-07.

Williams (Art) moved to adjourn and the meeting ended as 9:00 a.m. approached.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne W. Barnett
(4 April 2006)

The Connections Sub-Committee moves approval of African American Studies 355 (African-American Women in American History), proposed by Nancy Bristow, for Connections Core status.

The Sub-Committee (David Lupher, Chair; Suzanne Barnett, Bradford Dillman, Christine Smith, Alyce DeMarais, and Ashley Gray) unanimously agreed that this course fully meets the qualifications for the Connections Core. Indeed, we had no questions for Prof. Bristow, so thoroughly had she addressed the Core rubric in both her cover letter and in the syllabus itself. This course is manifestly a thoughtful engagement of the disciplines of history, sociology, philosophy and political science.

The Connections Sub-Committee moves approval of Environmental Studies 335 (Thinking about Biodiversity), proposed by Joel Elliott, for Connections Core status.

The Sub-Committee also unanimously agreed that Environmental Studies 335 fully meets the rubric of the Connections Core. The class brings together a number of different disciplines (including biology, history, economics, ethics, politics, and anthropology/sociology), and assignments that, both for classroom discussion and for written work, are specifically designed to foster an understanding of the interrelationship between the fields covered. Again, the Sub-Committee had no questions for Prof. Elliott, but commend the care he has put into this course and the proposal.