

Minutes for the Curriculum Committee for March 7, 2005

Members present: Ken Rousslang, Sam Armocido (Student Representative), Lisa Wood, Joyce Tamashiro, Lori Ricigliano, Suzanne Barnett, Christine Smith, Jim Jasinski, Brad Tomhave, Bill Barry, Carrie Washburn, Karim Ochosi, Richard Anderson-Connolly (Chair), Carlo Bonura (Secretary)

**The minutes for the February 21, 2005 meeting was approved by the Committee.**

Anderson-Connolly passed out a proposal for change to the academic calendar that would be submitted to the Faculty Senate.

**The proposal was approved unanimously by the Committee.**

The committee discussed strategies for managing passage of the proposed changes after they are presented to the Faculty senate.

**Connections sub-committee report:**

Barnett **moved** approval by the Curriculum Committee of the following four courses for the Connections core rubric:

1. Connections 379 - Postcolonial Literature and Theory, proposed by William Kupinse (English)
2. Science, Technology, and Society (STS) 340 - Finding Order in Nature, proposed by Mott Greene (STS, Honors, History)
3. Connections 380 - Cosmos to Cosmopolitanism: Tradition and Transformation in Southeast Asian Architecture and Culture, proposed by Stuart Smithers (Religion)
4. International Political Economy (IPE 377) - Revolutionary Ideas in Political Economy

All of these proposals involved collegial and productive exchange between the subcommittee and the proposers toward clearer delineation of the ways that each course will meet obligations of the Connections core guidelines to enable students (a) to be aware of "multiple disciplinary approaches" to the subject and (b) to "engage the interdisciplinary process" (Connections Guidelines set II). Colleagues have devised imaginative and varying teaching strategies to assure fulfillment of these expectations, including papers and/or class presentations that deliberately state the task as employing disciplinary mix in dealing with the assigned issue, as well as class sessions informed by readings from different disciplines on the same day.

A general discussion took place in which the process of submitting courses was considered.

**The courses were unanimously approved by the Committee.**

**Philosophy Departmental review:**

Lisa Wood **moved** acceptance of the Philosophy Department's departmental review.

During discussion, Wood noted that the Philosophy department has provided a well articulated rationale for changes in the structure of the philosophy major. Questions posed to the department included those related to staffing changes, numbering of courses that will eventually transfer to the new core, and how the department handles student interests in Eastern philosophy. The subcommittee felt satisfied with the department's responses.  
Asian philosophies

The Committee dwelled further on the department's definition of its scope with regard to the discussion of Asian philosophy.

**The Committee accepted the report unanimously.**

**The Committee then considered the "special order" from the Faculty Senate to review its decision regarding the petitionable entrance of freshmen into transfer sections of freshmen seminars.**

Anderson-Connolly outlined the different options facing the Committee.

The Committee's conversation focused on how to preserve the "freshman experience" at the core of the seminars. There also was a broad discussion of how transfer students fit into such an experience as well as the special academic needs of such students. The point was raised that there is currently not much assessment data and it is, therefore, difficult to know the impact of special transfer sections on transfer students. The Committee debated the tension between the role the seminars play in providing the logistics for creating a (first-year at Puget Sound) "community" of students and the reality of having distinct audiences that need to be oriented to the university in different ways.

This issue was placed on the agenda for the next meeting.