

Minutes for the Curriculum Committee March 28, 2005

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

Announcements

Barry announced that technology workshop opportunities are still available and will be circulated by the Academic Dean's office.

Special interdisciplinary major:

The Committee unanimously approved the SIM proposed by Drew Bromfield entitled "Cognition and Brain Science."

Writing and Rhetoric sub-committee report:

The Committee discussed deadlines for approving courses for the fall semester as it is under pressure to complete review process for various sub-committees.

Some discussion of late arriving proposals took place, focusing on the means of generating freshmen seminars for the fall semester. Concern was expressed that new hires may not have the exposure to academic culture found at the core of the freshmen seminars. In response, the process of reviewing proposals and enabling the Committee to engage with the proposing faculty (in an effort to effect changes in the proposal or overall structure of the course that may not be in line with sub-committee standards).

SCIS sub-committee report:

Rousslang **moved** Curriculum Committee approval of the following course for the Seminar in Scholarly and Creative Inquiry core category.

1. PHIL 102, The Posthuman Future, Paul Loeb, Philosophy.

Paul's course proposal meets both the learning objectives and guidelines for courses proposed in the core category of Scholarly and Creative Inquiry Seminar. Each learning objective and guideline is addressed individually, and in some detail. Among other things, students will debate "the religious, ethical and political implications of posthumanism and transhumanism. For example: Are humans now usurping the role of God or nature? Should humans aim to enhance and perfect themselves? ... Are human rights applicable to the posthuman?"

The Committee unanimously approved this course.

Connections sub-committee report:

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

Connections 312 - Biological Determinism and Human Freedom: Issues in Science and Religion, proposed by Suzanne Holland (Religion) and Alyce DeMarais (Biology).

This course has been in the curriculum as SCXT 312, and the proposers have revised it for offering in the Connections core; upon approval it will be in the Fall 2005 schedule as CONN 312. The course is representative of imaginative courses created by the collaboration of faculty members across disciplines. The readings, as well as the routine interaction of the two instructors with each other and the class, along with written work, will assure the fulfillment of the expectations of the Connections core rubric.

The Committee unanimously approved this course.

Biology departmental curriculum review:

The Committee briefly discussed the status of cognates with departmental requirements. Although a concern was expressed that the allowance of cognate would exceed approved the limit, it was agreed that cognates would still serve as electives. Cognates, it was explained, also “increases degrees of freedom” for students in their course selection.

The Committee unanimously accepted this departmental review.

Physical Education departmental curriculum review:

The sub-committee identified two areas of concern to which the department satisfactorily responded:

- Assessment of “intangible” qualities (promoting “well-being as a lifestyle” and encouraging a “lifetime of activity”). The sub-committee encouraged development of assessment tools by the next department review.
- Challenge faced by PE department—changing demand for courses resulting in some low enrollment courses. The department review expressed a goal of altering course offerings to match changes in student athletic interests.

The Committee unanimously accepted this departmental review.

Proposal to change SIM revision procedure:

The revision procedure currently requires any changes be approved by the advisory committee (and formally submitted to the registrar).

Barry **moved** any changes to SIMs must be approved by the advisory committee and the Curriculum Committee.

The Committee unanimously approved this motion.