

Curriculum Committee Minutes
September 3, 2004

Members Present: Richard Anderson-Connolly, Suzanne Barnett, Bill Barry, Carlo Bonura, Jim Jasinski, Mark Jenkins, Grace Livingston, Karim Ochosi, Ken Rousslang, Christine Smith, Joyce Tamashiro, Carrie Washburn

Bill Barry convened the meeting at 9:00 am.

Selection of Chair and Secretary:

An election for the position of committee Chair was held (by written nomination and secret ballot). Rich Anderson-Connolly was selected as chair. The committee discussed the merits of a permanent secretary versus the task of rotating the position among members. After a round of written nominations, Carlo Bonura accepted the position of permanent secretary for the committee for this year.

Review of Minutes of April 26, 2004:

Anderson-Connolly (Chair) called for approval of the April 26, 2004 minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

Barnett suggested that the 2003-4 Curriculum Committee Final Report was "one of the best" that she had seen and advised all members of the committee, especially those new members, to review the report.

Review of functions of the Associate Deans' Office in curricular matters:

Barry reviewed the "Functions of the Associate Deans' Office in Curricular Matters" document passed out at the beginning of the session.

Barnett moved a "reaffirmation" of the document and content (Rousslang seconded).

Jenkins reminded members of the committee that new members would not be familiar with this document and suggested that they have time to read it over.

Barry assured the committee that it could wait a week before taking a vote to "reaffirm."

In the process of calling the question to "reaffirm" Barnett inquired about the role of the Deans with regard to numbers nine and ten under the section "Delegated Action."

Barry suggested that before any vote on the document, the committee should consider the proposed amendment 11 to the "Delegated Action" section that read: "(11) provisional approval of Writing and Rhetoric, Scholarly and Creative Inquiry, and Connections courses over the summer. Such approvals are reviewed by the Committee in Fall term." According to Barry, the amendment would make it easier for new faculty to develop courses over the summer without the Curriculum committee having to convene during that time. The Deans' review and approval would facilitate this process of getting new first-year seminars approved before the beginning of the semester.

The "Functions of the Associate Deans' Office in Curricular Matters" document was unanimously approved as amended.

Overview of 2004-2005 business of the committee:

As signup sheets for new subcommittee positions were passed out, Barry began the discussion by suggesting that approving new Connections courses was the greatest challenge to the committee for the

upcoming year. He reviewed the recent history of attempts to design different means for approving courses. A new subcommittee will be reviewing all Connections courses.

Jenkins expressed concern over the number of people who would have to serve on the Connections subcommittee in order to meet the expected workload of course approvals.

Anderson-Connolly requested clarification on how many courses the subcommittee would see in the next year and especially before the end of Fall semester. Anderson-Connolly was concerned about the potential of 30 courses coming before the subcommittee.

Barry acknowledged that 12 or 13 courses must be approved by November 1, 2004.

Washburn reminded the committee that there is still one Connections course approval outstanding from last year's business that must come before the subcommittee.

Barnett asked, "Who passes on quality of the courses?" and reiterated that this is a question that has not been fully settled. She went on to argue that the notion of an "advisory board" was not beneficial to the process.

Barry reminded the committee that the "advisory board" proposal was "dead" (no longer being considered by the committee). He also reviewed the subcommittee structure of approving classes in which there is an emphasis on "totally representative subcommittees" consisting of members from the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities.

In closing the meeting Anderson-Connolly said (referring to Washburn's comments earlier) that the still remaining course in front of Connections subcommittee would have to be one of its first orders of business.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlo Bonura