

Minutes for the Curriculum Committee Meeting: October 6, 2004

Members present:

Mark Jenkins, Bill Barry, Carrie Washburn, Rich Anderson-Connolly (Chair), Christine Smith, Ken Rousslang, Lori Ricigliano, Sam Armocido (Student Representative), Grace Livingston, Suzanne Barnett, Brad Tomhave, Carlo Bonura.

1. Call to order

Minutes of September 22, 2004 approved unanimously.

2. Announcements

The Study Abroad Program inquired into having their program review deferred for one year.

It was explained that the request reflects the fact that the Interim Study Abroad Committee has not yet submitted their recommendations for the program. After a short discussion the motion seconded and passed. The review, originally scheduled for the 05/06 academic year, will now take place during the 06/07 academic year.

Sam Armocido was introduced as the new student representative.

3. Additional subcommittee assignments

Barry discussed the formation of new subcommittees to handle the formation of a neurobiology Special Interdisciplinary Major and address study abroad issues. The neurobiology subcommittee will be chaired by (Joyce) Tamashiro, while Jenkins and (Lisa) Wood will chair the Study Abroad subcommittee.

With regard to study abroad, Barry explained that the subcommittee is designed to save time. Currently only Anderson-Connolly serves on the committee dealing with study abroad. The new subcommittee will review courses and report to full committee.

4. Connections Subcommittee report

Barnett submitted a motion for the approval of the following courses:

"Religion 369" [as Connections 369] - Power, Gender and Divinity: The Construction of Goddesses, proposed by Elisabeth Benard (Asian Studies)

STS (Science, Technology, and Society) 318 - Science and Gender, proposed by Robin Foster (Psychology)

STS 345 - Physics in the Modern World: Copenhagen to Manhattan, proposed by Andrew Rex (Physics)

STS 360 - Astrobiology: The Search for Life on Other Planets and for Life's Origins on Earth, proposed by Mott Greene (STS, Honors, History)

Anderson-Connolly asked if all but the last course were newly submitted courses. Jenkins replied that none of the courses were new, but adapted from already existing courses.

In the discussion that followed Barnett expressed the “concerns” of the subcommittee that formed the central focus of their review of classes: whether or not clarity of student engagement with interdisciplinary process is evident in proposals.

The motion to approve the classes was seconded and passed.

Washburn reaffirmed that Religion 369 will become Connections 369, whereas the other classes will retain their STS prefix. 369 will continue to fulfill old core requirements.

5. Scholarly and Creative Inquiry Seminar Subcommittee report

Rousslang submitted a motion for the approval of the following courses:

CSOC 140, Modern Revolutions, Leon Grunberg, Comparative Sociology

Rel 110, Magic and Religion, Greta Austin, Religion

Smith remarked that these classes seemed very similar in structure to Connections courses just discussed.

The motion to approve the classes was seconded and passed.

With regard to a third course “Are we Our genes?” the subcommittee inquired as to how the readings were tied to the assignments but the author of the course had not yet replied with an answer.

6. Writing and Rhetoric Seminar Subcommittee report

Barry reporting for the committee motioned the approval of **Communication Studies 110 “Contemporary Controversies.”** He suggested that the department was proposing this course as a generic Writing and Rhetoric course that a visiting faculty could teach with ease. This would be similar to the design of “Genre Studies” in the Department of English.

Barnett clarified that a student cannot take more than one Writing and Rhetoric seminar and that they cannot take such a class twice for credit.

Jenkins asked if Lupher was on the subcommittee and if he approved the course. Barry replied that Lupher approved course but was uncertain as to the exchange that took place over the course.

Jenkins then asked generally about the rigorousness of the course. Barry indicated that in terms of what was proposed the course was well above what has been approved in the past. Jenkins suggested that it was hard to get a sense of what students will be doing in the class from the description provided.

Barnett worried that the committee was making it easy for adjunct instructors to teach something as “fundamental to our being” as first-year seminars. It was confirmed that the Communication Department has two first-year seminars taught by adjunct instructors. Barnett was hopeful that full-time professors would not say that they did not want to teach the seminars.

The issue then arose that adjunct instructors were never in fact permitted to teach the seminars.

Rousslang said that he was comforted by the concern for rigor that the Committee had

displayed regarding the issue.

Barnett, we will benefit from the outline of the relationship between these kind of seminars and adjunct faculty.

Anderson-Connolly reminded the Committee that the issue of adjuncts not directly a matter for the Committee. Jenkins replied that it was a curriculum matter if a proposal explicitly expects adjunct instructors to teach first-year seminars.

Wasburn clarified that in English, which has developed “Genre Studies” to be taught by multiple faculty, for the most part the most senior faculty members teach the first-year seminars. The discussion also turned to the fact that Scholarly and Creative Inquiry seminars do not seem to face this problem as nature of these seminars ensures that only Puget Sound faculty can teach these courses.

Rousslang stated that it was remarkable that an instructor in a three year position would be proposing such courses. He also suggested that this was an issue for broader Committee discussion.

There was a general sense that this could be discussed at a Faculty Senate meeting. Additionally, it was agreed that this topic should go on the agenda for a future Curriculum Committee meeting.

The motion to approve the course was seconded and passed.

7. Study Abroad

Barry sought the classification of the **Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome** as an affiliated program through the Study Abroad program. He explained that there were two types of Study Abroad programs: affiliated programs that qualify for UPS tuition, aid and residency credit and approved programs in which students must pay tuition direction to the organizing entity and do not get residency credit.

He also stated that the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome is *the* “primer” program in the Mediterranean, and that Puget Sound students will compete with top students from universities across the country.

Rousslang asked for clarification of the definition of residency/non-residency.

Barry explained that for graduation a student’s final 8 final credits must be taken on campus. If a program is “affiliated” the classification of credit as “residential” is automatic, whereas if a program is merely “approved” students must petition for residential credit.

The motion to classify the program as an affiliated program was seconded and passed.

8. Other business

Washburn raised the issue of the Committee’s charge to approve the academic calendar. She stated that the Committee was entrusted with approving the calendar, including setting basic dates for the beginning and end of the semesters (a process which outlined in the calendar guidelines). Washburn said that the Committee must set a date soon so that administrators can begin using calendar.

Anderson-Connolly noted that if the Committee wanted to look at the calendar in full that there was no sub-committee to do so. Washburn provided insights into how this process took place during the last review of the calendar.

Barnett suggested that the easiest thing was not to change the calendar in any significant

way. Jenkins raised the issue that the it was difficult for faculty that the day before thanksgiving was not a holiday and as such students who needed to travel to the east coast were forced to not come to class on the Wednesday before the actual holiday. Barnett stated that the Committee had already discussed this in the past.

There was a consensus that this issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted

Carlo Bonura
Politics and Government