

Curriculum Committee Minutes February 9, 2004

Members Present: Richard Anderson-Connolly, Bill Barry, DeWayne Derryberry, Cathy Hale, Sue Hannaford, Lynda Livingston, David Luper, Sarah Norris, Ken Rousslang, Douglas Sackman, Joyce Tomashiro, Melissa Weinman-Jagosh, Carrie Washburn

Visitors Present: Lori Ricigliano

Our illustrious new chair, Sue Hannaford, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Approval of minutes:

Several people did some armchair secretarial work. Apparently, we did not have an 18-hour meeting in January (thanks to Hannaford for this observation). Tom have asserted that he had, in fact, attended the January 26 meeting (although he was unable to produce documentation in support). The chastened secretary has made the requisite changes to the January 26 minutes.¹

M/S/P approval of (revised) minutes of November 24, 2003 and January 26, 2004.

Announcements:

Barry noted that the Faculty Senate would be meeting later to consider our recommendations for Connections courses. We proposed that these courses be listed in the bulletin using a "Connections" label and that there be an advisory board responsible for approving content of proposed courses. (See minutes of 11/24/03.) Barry believes that these issues may end up before the full faculty. However, in the interim, he requested Curriculum Committee support during the Senate's deliberations.

Rousslang wondered if the Senate had charged us to consider these issues. Barry responded that it had not; these were just things that arose as we began to evaluate Connections proposals.

Washburn noted that having seminars with departmental prefixes means that the same course can have different prefixes when different people (from different departments) teach it.

Report on Interim Study Abroad Committee:

Barry reminded us that a year and a half ago, the Senate recommended the creation of an interim study abroad committee that would help both with the assessment of policies and programs and with the selection of students. The goal of this committee is to "pay more attention to study-abroad issues." However, the committee would take no power away from the Curriculum Committee, as it would act only in an advisory capacity. All of its recommendations would go to the Curriculum Committee or the Academic Standards Committee; we can reconsider any of the issues it raises.

Economics Subcommittee Report:

Barry distributed the following missive from Mott Greene:

¹ She noted later that Sue Hannaford had also been omitted from the 1/26 minutes. She was there, her election to chair notwithstanding.

Report to the Curriculum Committee on the Economics Department 5 Year Review

This was a detailed and very clear review document showing the economics department continues to be a healthy, active, and forward-looking cohort of the UPS faculty. The department's review had several points worth noting.

1. The department is dropping two courses which supported the old curriculum – nothing problematic here.
2. The department has taken the step of instituting a senior thesis requirement in response to student surveys that suggested students would like an integrative experience as a capstone to the major. This is a labor intensive and demanding step without request for any additional staffing, and the department is to be commended for it.
3. The department has made a reasonable claim (in its discussion of future plans) that its active role in the core, combined with the loss of a full tenure line (Veseth) to IPE, has strained its resources to the maximum and that the majors are feeling the pinch. The department has documented well the strain on its resources, and has made a case that in the near term, its ability to teach new areas of economics and to give its majors a full range of course options, may well entail the addition (or replacement, depending on how one chooses to see it) of a tenure line. This is not a matter for the CC to decide but we may note, and wish to record, that a good case has been made.
4. The economics department has made serious and effective efforts at assessment. It not only surveys graduating seniors, but does a “five years out” survey, and charts, as well, the career paths of its graduates as much as possible. This is real outcome analysis, and an excellent example of serious commitment to outcomes.

The committee found no problems or issues that required intervention or even clarification by the CC. Would that all reviews were so straightforward!

We move unanimously to approve and ask this report be entered in the minutes
Mott Greene, Chair Econ 5-Year Review Subcommittee.

(end insert)

Notes: There were no substantial changes recommended during this review. The two courses to be dropped are essentially outmoded (ECON 162 [Introduction to International Economic Studies] no longer has the international core to support it; ECON 242 [Comparative Economic Systems] is just “obsolete”). The subcommittee characterized this review as “great on assessment.” Overall, the subcommittee felt that the economic department had “made it very easy on us.”

Lupher wondered if other departments might be able to review the laudable assessment work done by the economists. Barry made a mental note to post it to the assessment website (<http://www.ups.edu/dean/assessment/assessment.htm>).

Barry M/S/P approval of the Economics Department's five-year review.

SCIS Subcommittee Report:

Weinman-Jagosh moved to approve the following two courses:

- ◆ CS 130: Murderous Neighbors, Compassionate Strangers: Disparate Responses to Genocide (proposed by Margi Nowak), and
- ◆ HIST 130: Race, Education, and the Law: The Brown Decision and its Legacies (proposed by Nancy Bristow).

Weinman-Jagosh noted that “both courses are excellent SCISs and the proposals do everything we ask.” She also mentioned that Nowak had been most accommodating in addressing any questions the subcommittee had posed.

Hannaford wondered what sorts of situations would be considered in Nowak’s course. Weinman-Jagosh gave the examples of Nazi Germany and Rwanda. Rousslang noted that such topics would provoke students to think.

Weinman-Jagosh M/S/P approval of CS 130 and HIST 130.

Status Report:

Washburn announced that the review for the School of Business and Leadership should be in this week. Philosophy’s is expected before spring break, 2004. The Environmental Studies review, however, may not come this semester.

Deciding not to remain in session until Tuesday morning, the committee **adjourned at 2:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda S. Livingston