

**Curriculum Committee Minutes
March 12, 2002**

Present: Abbott, Barry, Beck, Clark, Derryberry, Greene, Hannaford, Kontogeorgopoulos, Mehlhaff (chair), Neff-Lippman, Pasco-Pranger, Sable, Sackman, Tomhave, Washburn, Weinman-Jagosh.

Mehlhaff called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Minutes were approved for the 2/26/02 meeting of the Committee.

Report on the Geology Department Curriculum Review:

Beck M/S (vote reported later) approval of the Geology Department's curriculum review.

Beck reported that the Subcommittee had raised some serious objections and concerns to the Department's initial report. Specifically, the Subcommittee objected to a proposed major revision that would have created two tightly structured tracks within the Geology major. To accommodate both tracks certain required courses were scheduled to be taught every other year. The Subcommittee was concerned with the impact this scheduling would have on students and the ways in which the two-track structure would limit the Department's flexibility. The Subcommittee had also voiced concerns about prerequisites to some entry-level courses that made them less accessible to non-majors seeking Core classes.

Beck reported that the Department responded to the Subcommittee's concerns by making significant revisions to the changes to the major proposed in the review. The new proposal creates a more flexible major that reflects the new realities of the field by:

- Creating a 16 unit major with 10 units from the Geology Department. The 10 units within the Department include a field camp experience at another university and a senior thesis.
- Abandoning a strict sequence. There are six required Geology courses and four electives. This requires the renaming and renumbering of several courses.
- Creating a new elective course, Geology 320, Environmental Geochemistry.
- Eliminating prerequisites for Geology 102 and 110.

Sable inquired whether there was any structure within this proposal for an environmental studies track; Clark responded that there was no formal track but that an emphasis in environmental studies could be accomplished through advising students in their choice of electives. Hannaford asked for more information on the field camp experience and expressed concern that it might present an added financial burden to students. Clark observed that this requirement was already part of the existing major, and that it was absolutely educationally necessary. Neff-Lippman asked why UPS does not run a field school and there was agreement between Clark and Barry that it was not financially feasible. Mehlhaff asked how the field camp experience was recorded on the transcript and Tomhave answered that it was recorded as one academic unit with a notation of the institution where the student took the course; it counts for residency credit and is figured in the GPA. Abbott asked about the availability of financial aid for field camps, expressing concern that a perception that Geology majors have to spend extra money for a major requirement might discourage students from choosing that major. Neither Clark nor Barry and Washburn knew whether any financial aid was available; Barry agreed to contact the Department chair to look into the availability of aid for the field camp experience. **The motion passed with one abstention.**

At 8:25 Weinman-Jagosh M/S/P adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Pasco-Pranger

