

Curriculum Committee Minutes November 28, 2001

Present: Barry, Beck, Blake (for Tomhave), Clark, Derryberry, Greene, Hannaford, Kerrick, Kontogeorgopoulos, Mehlhaff, Pasco-Pranger, Sackman, Warning (chair), Washburn, Weinman-Jagosh.

Warning called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Minutes were approved for the 11/7/01 meeting of the Committee.

Announcements:

In response to the Committee's concern, raised in the meeting of 11/7/01, about the lack of clarity of the criteria and process for approval of or affiliation with Study Away programs, Barry pointed Committee members to pages 75-78 of the 2001-2002 *Logger* which outlines the process for student application for Study Abroad. He suggested that the criteria for approval of Study Abroad or Study Away program would be analogous to the criteria listed in those guidelines. He also informed the Committee that he had contacted Peter Wimberger and Karin Sable, who had inquired about possible affiliation with Study Away programs, and had informed him that they could make application for such affiliation through his office.

Barry also reiterated the Committee's desire that faculty begin submitting course for approval for the new Core and asked Committee members to remind their colleagues of the same.

Spring 2002 meeting time:

Washburn presented a number of possible meeting times for the Committee for Spring 2002.

- **Weinman-Jagosh M/S/P that the Committee meet 8:00-8:50 a.m. on Tuesdays.**

Comparative Sociology request for deferment of curriculum review:

Warning read aloud a request from Sunil Kukreja requesting one-year deferment of the review of the Comparative Sociology Department's curriculum, currently scheduled for 2002-2003. Kukreja explained that the Department has two new colleagues in tenure line positions this year, is presently conducting another tenure line search, and is anticipating the retirement of George Guilmet at the end of this school year. A deferment of the review would give the Department a bit more time to reflect on the results of these personnel changes. Weinman-Jagosh inquired how often such deferments were granted; Pasco-Pranger answered that they were fairly common. Greene commented that the request seemed reasonable and would save the Department some work.

- **Beck M/S/P deferment of the Comparative Sociology Department's curriculum review until 2003-2004.**

Internship Subcommittee Report:

Kerrick reported on the Subcommittee's curriculum review of the Internship program. He reported that his own department (Math and Computer Science) has had a great deal of success with this program; that the Subcommittee had asked for clarification of a number of points, and that Ron Albertson in Academic and Career Advising had answered all of those questions to the Subcommittee's satisfaction. Mehlhaff asked how tuition and credit works for students in this program; Washburn answered that students attend an on-campus seminar in addition to the off-campus internship and earn (and pay for) one academic unit. Barry commented because the program carries academic credit, the Subcommittee was particularly concerned to ensure its academic integrity and that Albertson answered the Subcommittee's concerns in this regard. Mehlhaff asked how many students per year participated in the program; Barry estimated about 20 per term. Hannaford expressed

surprise at the lowness of the number and inquired whether students with certain majors tended to use the program more than others. Kerrick answered that there tended to be more students in the program from Computer Science, Business, Comparative Sociology and Physics than from other departments. Hannaford asked whether they were looking to open up internships in other fields; Kerrick answered that it seemed that faculty effort was needed to open up and promote internships; Weinman-Jagosh added that Academic and Career Advising also sometimes sends information on existing internship opportunities to the departments; Kerrick further added that alumni contacts are often useful in setting up new internship positions.

- **Kerrick M/S/P approval of the curriculum review of the Internship Program.**

Natural World / Natural Science Subcommittee Report:

Derryberry reported on the Subcommittee's consideration of a new introductory biology course, BIO 121: Introduction to Human Biology, for the Natural World Core category in the old Core and Natural Scientific Approaches Core category in the new Core. The Subcommittee was satisfied that the course met requirements for both Core categories. Mehlhaff asked how large the course is expected to be; Hannaford answered that it will be either 64 or 48 students (i.e., either 3 or 4 lab sections).

- **Kerrick M/S/P approval of BIO 121: Introduction to Human Biology for the Natural World Core category in the old Core and Natural Scientific Approaches Core category in the new Core.**

As a side-light to this report, Barry mentioned that the Committee should considering how strictly to interpret/enforce the line asking for a syllabus including an explanation of how the course fulfills the rubric of the Core category. The Committee agreed to put this issue on the agenda for the following meeting.

Communications IIB Subcommittee Report:

Barry reported on the Subcommittee's consideration of SPAN 410: Spanish-American Literature of the Colony and Independence for the Communications IIB Core category. This is an existing course with a good deal of emphasis on the oral content; the Subcommittee was satisfied that the course met requirements for the Core category and **Barry M/S (vote reported later) approval of SPAN 410: Spanish-American Literature of the Colony and Independence for the Communications IIB Core category.** Kerrick asked whether the course was mostly for majors; Barry answered that it is. Washburn explained that it is useful to have upper-level language courses in the Core because some language majors would like to fulfill this Core category with foreign language but do not take the lower-level courses in college. **Mehlhaff offered a friendly amendment adding SPAN 321: Hispanic Short Story to the proposal; the Subcommittee had also considered and been satisfied with this course; Barry accepted the amendment. The motion passed.**

Clusters Discussion:

Barry raised the issue of the role the Curriculum Committee might have should faculty begin proposing "clusters" of related Core courses. Assuming that there's no recording of such clusters on the transcript, ought the Committee to have a role at all? Greene wondered whether the idea of clusters works against the purpose of general education, i.e., breadth rather than depth; he also suggested the possibility of an electronic advising utility that would suggest related courses without institutionalizing a formal cluster. The Committee plans to continue discussion of this issue.

At 8:50 Weinman-Jagosh M/S/P adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Pasco-Pranger