

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee Meeting of Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Members Present: Roger Allen, Derek Buescher, Alyce DeMarais, Kent Hooper, Alisa Kessel, Bob Matthews, Amanda Mifflin, Emelie Peine, Jonathan Stockdale, Brad Tomhave, Alec Wrolson, Steven Zopfi; Visitor: Jane Carlin

Call to Order

Chair Bob Matthew called the meeting to order at 9:02.

Approval of Minutes

M/S/P Approval of the minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting.

Review of "The Functions of the Associate Deans' Office in Curricular Matters"

M/S/ Discussion to approve reauthorization of curricular duties delegated to the associate deans' office. Derek asked Alyce if she is comfortable with the list of actions she made on behalf of the committee as listed in the report. Alyce said yes but it stated it was up to the committee to approve. **Motion passed w/ one abstention.**

Review of Senate Charges

Bob reported we do not have them yet but reported that the senate did approve our final report from last year except point #2 (2013-14 calendar) and point #7 – (codification of independent study) as they were not complete.

From the 2009-2010 Final Report:

1. Review departments and programs scheduled for 2010-11 including the following postponed reviews:
 - a. Humanities
 - b. Physical Education
 - c. Science, Technology, and Society
 - d. Religion
2. Approve the 2013-2014 academic calendar.
3. Continue consideration of placement into foreign language courses.
4. Continue evaluation of the Connections rubric.
5. Work with the library staff and faculty who teach first-year seminars in the fall to integrate research gateway practices into the seminar curricula.
6. Work with Registrar and Academic Advising to determine if there is a mechanism for students to pre-select their spring seminar based on topic.
7. Codify independent study policy language and bring revised policy to the faculty early in the fall.
8. Address changing the Faculty Bylaws to add a library staff member to the Curriculum Committee membership.
9. Complete Fine Arts Approaches rubric language modification process.

Calendar

2011 – 12 Calendar – Alyce reported that the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) recommends a change of date for completing incomplete work committee. Brad reported the committee is still working

on this issue. Derek asked if in progress and independent study have different dates. Brad explained that they required different dates, suggested we approve calendar as is and IP and IND Study dates could always be modified later when we hear from ASC. Kent proposed that we examine a possible move to the quarter system. Derek suggests we do not have enough time to do that the 2011-12 calendar year and suggests we look at the issue for future years. **M/S/P** to approve 2011-12.

Calendar 2014-15 – Committee discussed moving calendar back so final exams would occur before Thanksgiving. Alyce asked if anyone noticed a creep in people leaving early and committee said yes. Alyce said she would talk to Randy Nelson about surveying faculty about class attendance prior to Thanksgiving. Jane mentioned demographics suggested that we are seeing more out of state students who presumably want to leave earlier for Thanksgiving. Committee examined eliminating the fall break and/or starting the semester earlier and Alisa asked about the financial impact. Alyce and Brad suggested probably that the only major difference would be loss of revenue for dining/conference services. Alyce said she would ask Heather Clifford about the impact to dining/conference services. The committee discussed starting earlier in January. Kent suggested we should discuss the quarter system. Alisa said this would shorten the grading system if we started earlier in January and limit time the faculty has for research in January. Kent suggests ending earlier in December and starting earlier in the Fall. Roger noted that this would cause problems for grad programs if we started the fall earlier. Kent suggested scheduling finals immediately after thanksgiving Derek noted that the fall is shorter than spring and wondered if we can equalize them. Bob asked how we should proceed given the wide ranging discussion and suggested we either give the issues to an existing working group or establish an ad hoc working group to study the issues. Kent volunteered to serve on the committee. Bob suggested approving the 2014-15 calendar as is and allow the committee look at this issue for future years. Alisa asked if approval of the 2014-15 calendar would preclude changing it at a later date. Alyce said no. The committee would need to vote to change guidelines for approval. Kent suggested approving the 2014-15 calendar and then discussing it. Brad cautioned that we will need to work through the impact a major change in the calendar would have on many areas of administration. Alyce suggested we could postpone discussion or give it to the working group. Brad and Derek volunteered to be on the working group. Derek asked what disciplines have professional conferences two weeks before Thanksgiving. The committee reported that religion and chemistry both have professional conferences during that time. Kent felt that it was good to examine the issue even if there are difficulties with calendar change. The committee decided that they will establish an ad hoc working group led by Kent, with Derek, Brad, and Alyce as members. **M/S/P** to approve 2014 and 15 calendar and establish an ad hoc working group as constituted above to study a major calendar revision.

Working Groups

Alyce reported that course proposals were sent out to the working groups, reviewed the charges to the working groups and suggested that they should schedule time to meet.

Other Business

Derek reported that the ASC asked us to evaluate how graduating students fulfill outside upper division grad requirement outside their major. Brad clarified that the ASC is discussing changing the requirement to make the requirement outside the first major as well as outside the department. Derek asked if this was a Curriculum Committee matter. Brad explained the ambiguity with the current requirement and that the ASC felt that requiring students to take a course outside of their major would prevent students from using an elective inside their major to fulfill the requirement. Derek asked what happens with interdisciplinary majors. Brad explained that most interdisciplinary majors with many electives have switched to contract majors. Kent wondered at the advisability of upper division students doing too much work outside of their major as this was a time they should focus on their major and wondered if having non-majors in upper division courses watered down the rigor of the course for majors. Alec asked if students could use connections courses to achieve the same result. Kent thought that connections courses are already tougher to teach because of the various levels of student preparation. Alyce will draft language to incorporate the suggested ASC language into the Curriculum Statement. Bob noted that the issue seemed to be more of a Curriculum Committee issue. Brad will let the ASC know that the Curriculum Committee is working on the issue.

Adjourn

M/S/P to adjourn at 9:50

Respectively submitted by Steven Zopfi