

**Curriculum Committee
Minutes
March 31, 2014**

Members present: Richard Anderson-Connolly, James Bernhard, Luc Boisvert, Lisa Ferrari (Associate Dean), Sara Freeman, Lisa Johnson (Chair), Alan Krause, Tim Pogar (student), Brett Rogers, Mike Spivey, Brad Tomhave (Registrar), Linda Williams

Also present: Lisa Hutchinson (Administrative Specialist)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Johnson announced that members of the Committee on Diversity (COD) would be attending the April 7 Curriculum Committee (CC) meeting to discuss the recent revision to Question 6 of the departmental curriculum review guidelines. COD members are concerned that the revised language fails to address important diversity issues. On March 11, Amy Ryken, who chairs the COD, sent a message to Johnson expressing the committee's concern. In response, Johnson invited members of the COD to attend a CC meeting to discuss their concerns. Committee members discussed whether such a visit could be productive, given that the recent changes to Question 6 were already the product of substantial debate and careful deliberation by the CC. More members spoke in favor of the COD members' visit than against it, and Johnson's invitation stood.

Ryken's memo will be circulated to CC members along with the agenda for the April 7 meeting.

M/S/P to approve the minutes of March 10, with one minor typographical change.

Working Group 1 reported progress on its review of the foreign language graduation requirement. In addition, consideration of the Music curriculum review is almost complete.

Working Group 3 reported continuing to work on its review of the core as a whole.

Working Group 4 recommended for approval SSI1 157 (Chinese Painting in the West). **M/S/P** to approve the course.

Working Group 5 recommended for approval three courses:

1. MUS 105 (Music in the U.S.) for Artistic Approaches. **M/S/P** to approve.
2. AFAM 210 (Black Fictions and Feminism) for Humanistic Approaches. **M/S/P** to approve.
3. ALC 335 (The Classic Chinese Novel) for Humanistic Approaches. **M/S/P** to approve.

Ferrari addressed the question of how to distinguish an interdisciplinary minor from an interdisciplinary emphasis. This was a point of confusion for the working groups considering the Neuroscience curriculum review and the proposal for a Bioethics emphasis. She provided a

spreadsheet showing curricular requirements for each interdisciplinary minor and emphasis. Committee members agreed that, based on this information, they did not understand why some programs had minors and others emphases. Rogers pointed out that “emphasis” may make sense in fields where there is no canon. Tomhave commented that Asian Studies uses the term “emphasis” because it seeks to influence how students choose courses, but not to build its own structured progression of courses. Freeman encouraged the committee to consider its ideal distinction between emphases and interdisciplinary minors. Anderson-Connolly pointed out that the issue is related to the development of a curriculum impact statement, and suggested that the committee include a self-charge on distinguishing emphases/minors in its final report to the Senate.

M/S/P to ask the Faculty Senate for a charge in 2014-2015 to clarify the distinction between an interdisciplinary emphasis and an interdisciplinary minor.

Spivey spoke to the requirement that Summer Session courses run for a minimum of six weeks. The new NW5C course (Food Systems of the Pacific Northwest) approved by the CC earlier this year will run during Summer Session, but provide a unit of credit for work done over three weeks. When the Senate raised this question, Dean Bartanen deferred to the credit-hour policy. Ferrari explained that a similar question arose about two years ago with regard to study abroad courses. A joint subcommittee of the CC, International Education Committee, and Academic Standards Committee agreed that Summer study abroad courses offering language and cultural immersion may be shorter than six weeks, but on-campus courses need to have the contact hours spread over at least six weeks. The subcommittee did not address “study away” courses, such as the NW5C course, in which students do not leave the U.S., but also do not stay on campus. Tomhave noted that the six-week standard is in the university’s calendar-setting guidelines, but was uncertain about the origin of that standard. Ferrari will try to find out more about the origin of the six-week requirement.

M/S/P to adjourn at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in Library 020.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ferrari
Secretary of the day