

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the September 18, 2015 Meeting

Present: Richard Anderson-Connolly (Chair), Robert Beezer (Secretary), Peggy Burge, Luc Boisvert, David Chiu, James Evans, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Pat Krueger, Janet Marcavage, Gabe Newman, Kieran O’Neil, Elise Richman.

Visitors: Lisa Hutchinson, Robin Jacobson.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 1:00 PM in the McCormick Room.

The minutes of the September 11, 2015 meeting were approved, with the addition of the names of the student members who had been present.

ANDERSON-CONNOLLY asked for another round of introductions and then presented the committee’s charges from the Faculty Senate, along with some background and historical perspective. The charges are:

- Complete the review of the Natural Sciences Core deferred from 2014-15.
- Craft proposal(s) to reduce the number of teaching days in spring semester; report back to the Senate.
- Draft guidelines for evaluating short term, study away, experiential learning, and other “new format” course proposals.
- Review the “continuity work” of the Curriculum Committee Burlington Northern group this past summer (2015) and determine how best to integrate those results into the work of the Curriculum Committee this year.

ANDERSON-CONNOLLY announced the four Working Groups (subcommittees) and their Leads (chairs), along with their areas of responsibility. They are:

- WG1 – EVANS (Lead), GORDON, KRUEGER, NEWMAN; Physical Therapy 5-year review, Review of Artistic Core, Experiential Learning Charge.
- WG2 – BOISVERT (Lead), FERARRI, MARCAVAGE, O’NEIL; Review of Natural Sciences Core, Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry Course Proposals, Global Development Studies Minor Proposal, Spring Calendar Charge.

- WG3 – RICHMAN (Lead), FERARRI, TOMHAVE, WOODWARD; Psychology 5-year Review, African American Studies Major Proposal, Approaches Course Proposals.
- WG4 – KONTOTHEOPOULOS (Lead), BURGE, CHIU, PANKOW; Science, Technology and Society 5-Year Review, Special Interdisciplinary Major Proposals, KNOW Proposals, Connections Course Proposals.

In contrast to past practice Associate Dean FERARRI is not a member of every working group, but each group should feel free to call on her expertise as needed.

Professor JACOBSON (Politics and Government) was invited to present a proposal for a two-unit course. This course would begin with a student participating in a series of seminars given in Olympia as part of concurrent 10-week internship with the Washington State Legislature during the first part of the Spring semester. This would be followed by a “double-time” course in Washington State politics after Spring Break. A third unit for the internship itself would give the student full-time status.

JACOBSON fielded numerous questions about the exact structure of the course, if it made sense to have two one-unit courses or a single two-unit course, how financial aid would be handled and what arrangements students would make for housing.

Working Group 1 will begin work on this proposal, with a sense of urgency, since registration for Spring 2016 is not far away. This will be their first opportunity to consider courses that could be categorized as “experiential learning”.

ANDERSON-CONNOLLY announced the dates of future meetings for this semester, to wit: October 2, October 16, October 30, November 13, November 20 and December 4. Add them to your calendar.

BOISVERT presented the work of a subcommittee which met over the summer, supported by a Burlington Northern Curriculum Development grant. The other three members were three-year veterans of the Curriculum Committee: Gwynne Brown, Lisa Ferrari, Sara Freeman, and Alan Krause. This subcommittee has updated various forms, provided answers to questions asked frequently by new members of the committee, and created “wise counsel” descriptions of common tasks such as how to lead a working group or conduct a five-year curriculum review.

ANDERSON-CONNOLLY reminded the committee that some of these changes would require approval by the committee, such as rewording of any forms. In contrast, other documents were created for internal use by the committee and should be viewed as “living documents.” However, they should not be taken as substitutes or replacements for documents like the Faculty By-Laws, and hence should not be viewed as carrying the “weight of law.”

HUTCHINSON will make these available on SoundNet and email them to committee members as attachments.

The motion to adjourn was made by RICHMAN, professor of Art, at 1:50, leaving time for Working Groups to meet briefly and organize themselves.