

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the October 9, 2015 Meeting

Present: Richard Anderson-Connolly (Chair), Robert Beezer (Secretary), Lori Blake (ex-officio, Registrar's Office), Peggy Burge, Luc Boisvert, David Chiu, James Evans, Lisa Ferrari, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Janet Marcavage, Gabe Newman, Kieran O'Neil, Elise Richman, John Woodward.

Visitors: Lisa Hutchinson.

The meeting was called to order by ANDERSON-CONNOLLY at 1:01 PM in the McCormick Room.

The minutes of the October 2, 2015 meeting were approved, with two minor changes.

Working Group 1 Report EVANS reported that their group had met to consider their review of the Artistic Approaches core. Perhaps because these reviews have been rescheduled to happen every seven years (from the previous five-year cycle), the Institutional Research Office did not collect extra information from last year's graduating seniors about this core requirement. EVANS proposed that the review could wait another year, when the senior survey results could be available. FERRARI noted that next year's committee was going to have many reviews to do, and so she was "hesitant" to push one review forward unless it could be replaced by another. ANDERSON-CONNOLLY concluded the discussion by explaining that this wrinkle had only been revealed this morning and that it would be best to find a resolution at a future meeting. **Action:** Continued.

EVANS reported that the *Comparative State Politics and Policy* course proposal now had complete forms and paperwork. The working group will only suggest some aspects of the program are made clearer in the Bulletin descriptions. At the October 2 meeting this course was approved as a pilot project, contingent on receipt of the paperwork. EVANS moved that the two new courses now be approved for repeated offerings, as is normally the case. **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 2 Report BOISVERT reported that their group met last Friday and has begun their review of the Natural Sciences core requirement and will be considering an interdisciplinary minor in Global Development Studies. One SSI course proposal is pending and he moved approval of four new courses as Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry.

SSI 2 176, *American Autobiography*, proposed by Professor Suzanne Warren (English). **Action:** Approved.

SSI 2 182, *Against Equality? The Marriage Equality Movement and its Queer Critics*, proposed by Professor Laura Krughoff (English). **Action:** Approved.

SSI 2 183, *Information from Gutenberg to Google*, proposed by Professor Iain Watts (History and Science, Technology, and Society). **Action:** Approved.

SSI 2 184, *The “Third World” from Bandung to NGOs*, proposed by Professor John Straussberger (History). **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 3 Report RICHMAN reported that they are well along on the Psychology Department Five-Year review, having reviewed forty-four syllabi. One course proposal is pending and she moved approval of two courses to meet the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. The first is an existing course, while the second is new.

Religion 322, *Islamic Law (Sharia)*, proposed by Professor Matthew Ingalls (Religion). **Action:** Approved.

Humanities 202, *The Digital Investigation of Literary Naturalism*, proposed by Professors Timothy Lulofs (Humanities/Honors/English) and George Erving (Honors/Humanities/English). **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 4 Report KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS brought forward one course proposal for approval as meeting the KNOW graduation requirement.

Sociology and Anthropology 481a, *Ciphers to Citizens: Social Movements in India*, proposed by Professor Devparna Roy (Sociology and Anthropology). **Action:** Approved.

FERRARI inquired if the course should be approved for more than a one-time use, as the form had requested. KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS will investigate with the proposer and department as he communicates approval.

SSI + KNOW ANDERSON-CONNOLLY returned to the discussion about a Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry adding a KNOW overlay, which was precipitated by a course proposal to this effect. KNOW overlays are intended to be placed on *any* course, so this is not an issue from the KNOW side. However, the KNOW graduation requirement is more recent than the first-year seminars and the “Proposed Objectives and Guidelines” of October 11, 2011 for the SSI seminars says:

These seminars may be taken only to fulfill core requirements.

This could be construed to mean that a seminar could not fulfill a graduation requirement (such as KNOW) or a major requirement. Or it could be construed to mean a student could only take a seminar course once, thereby fulfilling the core requirement and then could not take another.

EVANS recalled from the discussion around adoption of the seminars that the intent was to bar seminars from meeting major requirements, but he would welcome wider discussion. FERRARI reminded us that the seminars were more about communication, writing, research and information literacy, with the course content of secondary concern. It would diminish the effect of the KNOW overlay to apply it to a course like this, but she too would welcome wider discussion. RICHMAN reiterated that the KNOW overlay was meant to be very flexible in its application. KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS thought this would be better discussed by the full Faculty, rather than sending it to the Faculty Senate.

ANDERSON-CONNOLLY will bring this to Senator Jonathan Stockdale, for disposition to the Faculty Senate and then the Faculty, or directly to the Faculty. ANDERSON-CONNOLLY will prepare more explicit language reflecting the two interpretations described above.

Delegation to the Associate Deans' Office ANDERSON-CONNOLLY reminded the committee that he had solicited changes to the document outlining the Associate Dean's administrative role. None has been received.

The motion to adjourn was made by RICHMAN, professor of Art, at approximately 1:35 PM, perhaps setting a record for committee efficiency. The next meeting of the full committee will be October 16. We are expecting Associate Dean of Community Engagement and Experiential Learning Renee Houston to visit and brief us on experiential learning.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer