

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the December 4, 2015 Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by ANDERSON-CONNOLLY at 1:00 PM in the McCormick Room.

The minutes of the November 20, 2015 meeting were approved with the addition of MARCAVAGE as Secretary *pro tempore*.

Working Group 2 Report BOISVERT reported that their survey of faculty teaching in the Natural Sciences Approaches core area had garnered 10 responses, which they will consider next semester.

BOISVERT gave a synopsis of their review of the Global Development Studies program’s request to move from an interdisciplinary emphasis to an interdisciplinary minor. He then moved approval of this change. TOMHAVE asked what changes had been made. BOISVERT replied that there is a new course, GDS 400, which will be a capstone course, and the ability to “double count” courses is now more restrictive.

BOISVERT remarked that the working group was impressed by the care taken with the proposal. O’NEIL, as a student in the GDS program, mentioned that this change would be very beneficial for students. **Action:** Approved.

The working group will continue next semester with the 5-Year Review of Economics and the spring academic calendar charge from the Faculty Senate.

Working Group 1 Report EVANS reported that their survey of the faculty teaching in the Artistic Arts Approaches core area had garnered 8 or 9 responses. They continue to work on the 5-Year Review of Physical Therapy.

Working Group 3 Report RICHMAN reported that the Psychology Department had asked if various policy items (such as accessibility, accommodation and bereavement) normally present in syllabi could instead be placed on a website. The more general question of what should be suggested, and what should be required, for course syllabi was on the day’s agenda, so this question was postponed.

RICHMAN had three other procedural questions related to their review of the proposed African American Studies major.

- Could courses be approved, without syllabi, when they would be part of the requirements for a new major? KONTOGEORGOPOULOS was of the opinion they should be provided and EVANS offered that they had been required for approval of a recently added Bioethics minor, so there is precedent.
- Departments affected by program changes are required to be contacted so they may respond about the effects on their departments. Are responses required? KONTOGEORGOPOULOS argued that this was the point of the Curricular Impact Statement (CIS). FERRARI said that department's responses are important, but do not constitute veto power. BOISVERT read directly from the CIS, which was clear about responses. ANDERSON-CONNOLLY suggested RICHMAN contact the proposers to have them request the department responses. This could be stepped up to having the working group make such a request, and then the Chair of the committee.
- Is it appropriate to as a proposal to address how specific courses will be staffed? KONTOGEORGOPOULOS thought it was appropriate, especially for a program with relatively low enrollment. There is a precedent for such a request with the Asian Studies program.

Working Group 4 Report KONTOGEORGOPOULOS reported that they are still waiting on responses to questions they sent to the faculty in the Science, Technology and Society Program as part of their review.

KONTOGEORGOPOULOS moved approval of Business 365, *Cultural Diversity and Laws* for the KNOW requirement, as proposed by Lisa Johnson (Business and Leadership). **Action:** Approved.

Academic Calendars FERRARI presented a proposed detailed academic calendar for the 2016-17. There are no changes from the customary framework for the various dates. **Action:** Approved.

A basic calendar for the 2019-20 academic year will be brought to the committee once the extreme lateness of Thanksgiving is thoroughly understood.

Committee Documentation and Forms ANDERSON-CONNOLLY worried that the recent work spent on "wise counsel" documents, and changes to forms and guidelines, could get lost if they are not kept current. BOISVERT proposed that a new document be constructed that describes what should go into a working group year-end report. That document could suggest reviewing the committee's relevant forms, guidelines and advice for parts to update or improve. **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 4 volunteered to craft new guidelines on reviewing new or changing interdisciplinary programs, while Working Group 3 volunteered to craft guidelines for proposals requesting minors become majors.

SSI + KNOW In the matter of a KNOW overlay on a Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry, ANDERSON-CONNOLLY reported that Associate Dean Martin Jackson had communicated the sentiment of the Curriculum Coordination Committee. They were inclined to take a permissive view of the language and would allow a KNOW overlay on the SSI course.

However, members of the committee such as ANDERSON-CONNOLLY and TOMHAVE felt it was important enough to amend the language (rather than just set a precedent) and bring the new

language to the full faculty for action. EVANS suggested the committee could craft two versions of new language, one allowing a KNOW overlay on an SSI course, the other making it clear that was not permitted. RICHMAN commented, from her experience on the group that originally designed the KNOW requirement, that they had intended that SSI courses could have a KNOW overlay.

Thanks were expressed to the Chair for his excellent service, in advance of his Spring semester sabbatical.

The motion to adjourn was made by MARCAVAGE, professor of Art, at 2:00 PM. The next meeting of the full committee will be in the Spring semester.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer