

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the February 26, 2016 Meeting

Present: Robert Beezer (Secretary), Peggy Burge, David Chiu, James Evans, Lisa Ferrari, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos (Chair), Chris Kendall, Pat Krueger, Julia Looper, Janet Marcavage, Gabe Newman, Alec Pankow, Elise Richman, Brad Tomhave.

Visitor: Lisa Hutchinson.

KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM in the McCormick Room.

The minutes of the February 12, 2016 meeting were approved with one correction to personnel.

Curriculum Coordination Committee KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS reported on discussions with the Curriculum Coordination Committee, incident to a survey of faculty about the KNOW graduation requirement. When KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS received his survey request he asked the committee to make it clear their requests were not from the Curriculum Committee, and that they share the collected data with us.

Associate Dean Martin Jackson, *ex-officio* on the Curriculum Coordination Committee, has said the name of the committee will change to “Committee to Support the Shared Curriculum” so that the CCC might not be confused with the CC.

Discussion, in response to a question by RICHMAN, explained that the CTSTSC intends to support courses for the Connections, Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry, and KNOW requirements, through activities such as the recent KNOW workshops. Policy (such as course approvals) remains with the CC. FERRARI observed that there could be better channels of communication between these two committees, which brought the suggestion that such communication could happen in the lobby of the Associate Deans’ office.

Working Group 2 Report MARCAVAGE reported work this morning on a course proposal, and that work on the Spring Calendar charge will be brought to the next meeting. There will be a meeting of faculty teaching in the Natural Sciences Approaches core area on Friday, March 4 in the Murray Board Room.

Working Group 3 Report RICHMAN has been in contact with Professor Jan Leuchtenberger about the Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Minor proposal. She also spoke with Professor Keith Ward about the Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in Business proposal. Additionally, discussions continue with Professors Grace Livingston and Nancy Bristow about the African-American Studies Major proposal.

Working Group 4 Report LOOPER brought forward two course proposals for approval.

Humanities 368, *A Precious Barbarism* as a Connections core course, as proposed by Stuart Smithers (Religion). **Action:** Approved.

Honors 214, *Interrogating Inequality* for the KNOW graduation requirement, as proposed by Suzanne Holland (Religion) and Alisa Kessel (Politics and Government). **Action:** Approved.

The Honors program requested that Honors 214 also meet the KNOW requirement retroactively for the Fall 2015 semester. Reasons given revolved upon the tight schedule for Honors students, especially in the sciences, and the work to design the KNOW overlay for this course in Summer 2015. Discussion centered on Bulletin years, similar current situations involving the KNOW requirement, similar situations involving curricular changes in the past, and slippery slopes. A unanimous vote was against retroactive approval. **Action:** Denied.

Working Group 1 Report EVANS reported that “eight to ten” faculty attended the meet-up for the group’s review of the Artistic Arts Approaches and they had a good discussion. The working group has been consulted by Ellen Peters of Institutional Research for suggestions about survey questions.

Committee Documentation and Forms KONTOTHEORGPOULOS led the remainder of the meeting in a discussion of the new course proposal form for courses in core areas. The requirements for syllabi garnered the most interest.

Since last time, KONTOTHEORGPOULOS had inserted language after the list of syllabus requirements allowing proposers to explain why any of these items might not be appropriate for their course. The four re-iterations of university policy (academic integrity, emergency response, accessibility and accommodation, and bereavement) have been listed as mandatory.

The necessity of the requirement for *both* “Course Objectives” and “Student Learning Outcomes” was questioned. FERRARI argued that “outcomes” were preferable, and more likely to be expected by outside audiences. So “objectives” will be removed.

Present language requires a syllabus to contain an explanation of how the course fulfills the core area rubric. Tips for preparing a proposal suggest that the syllabus and the cover letter both contain such an explanation, and that it is “systematically addressed” in the cover letter. Some felt the syllabus need only contain notice that the course met a particular core requirement. The discussion was carried over to the next meeting.

The motion to adjourn was made by RICHMAN, professor of Art, at 2:01 PM. The next meeting of the full committee will be Friday, March 11 at 1 PM in the McCormick Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer