

# Curriculum Committee

## Minutes of the March 25, 2016 Meeting

**Present:** Robert Beezer (Secretary), Peggy Burge, David Chiu, James Evans, Lisa Ferrari, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos (Chair), Pat Krueger, Julia Looper, Janet Marcavage, Gabe Newman, Kieran O'Neil, Alec Pankow, Elise Richman, Brad Tomhave, John Woodward.

**Visitor:** Lisa Hutchinson.

KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM in the McCormick Room.

The minutes of the March 11, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Working Group 2 Report** MARCAVAGE brought forward two courses for approval.

Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry I 192, Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry II 192, *Elvis and MJ: the Image of the Kings*, as proposed by Paul Harris (Music). **Action:** Approved.

Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry I 193, *Digital Investigation of Literary Naturalism*, as proposed by Tim Lulofs (Humanities/Honors/English). The committee gave approval to list this as a seminar available to incoming students for the 2016-17 academic year, on the evidence that the proposal was close to being approved, and the course could more easily be made unavailable later, rather than to try to retroactively inform incoming students about its availability.

The working group continues to work on the meta-task of designing guidelines for working groups, and announced that discussion of the Spring calendar would take place at the March 28th meeting of the Faculty Senate.

**Working Group 1 Report** EVANS reported that there was nothing to report.

**Working Group 3 Report** RICHMAN brought forward one course for approval.

Asian Languages and Culture 345, *Revenge and Retribution in Chinese Literature* for the Humanistic Approaches core area, as proposed by Mengjun Li (Asian Studies). **Action:** Approved.

RICHMAN moved approval of a proposal for a major in African-American Studies.

1. RICHMAN said there has been extensive discussions between working groups and the program. These date back to January 2015, when the Curriculum Committee first received the original proposal for an African American Studies major.
2. RICHMAN said that “double-counting” of courses will be limited to two courses.

3. KONTOTHEORGOPOULOS mentioned that staffing for this major had become possible because of the use of the university's Faculty Opportunity Hire Policy to convert Renee Simms' position to a tenure-line faculty position.
4. TOMHAVE predicted, based on other patterns and trends, that the major would attract eight students annually.
5. KONTOTHEORGOPOULOS made it clear that the committee's job was not to make decisions about allocations of university resources, but rather to approve proposals on their merits.
6. BEEZER asked how many units the major required. The count is nine total, with five from African-American Studies (three new courses) and four from other departments.
7. KONTOTHEORGOPOULOS reminded the committee that this proposal had been "vetted carefully."

**Action:** Approved. Work began immediately to make implementation available for Fall 2016.

RICHMAN reported on a meeting that morning with Professor Jan Leuchtenberger to discuss the Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Minor proposal and questions about its "cohesiveness".

Professor Keith Ward has sent a reply to the working group with a revised proposal for the Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies, which will be considered.

**Working Group 4 Report** LOOPER brought forward three proposals.

Special Interdisciplinary Major, proposed by/for Amanda Diaz in American Studies, combines courses in Hispanic Studies, Politics and Government, Latin American Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, and Spanish. **Action:** Approved.

Connections 313, *Biomimicry and Bioart*, as proposed by Siddharth Ramakrishnan (Biology, Neuroscience). **Action:** Approved.

Sociology and Anthropology 215, *Race and Ethnic Relations* for the KNOW graduation requirement, as proposed by Monica DeHart (Sociology and Anthropology). This course is being proposed now so that it can be taught by a new faculty member in Fall 2016. FERRARI pointed out that it is distinctly different than a previous proposal for courses to be taught by new faculty, in several ways: (1) it is a modification of an existing course rather than a new course, (2) it is being taught by a tenure-track faculty rather than visiting faculty, and (3) it is proposed for the KNOW graduation requirement, which is not as detailed or specific in its guidelines as the SSI seminars.

**Action:** Approved.

**2019-2020 Basic Academic Calendar** A motion by TOMHAVE to approve the 2019-2020 Basic Academic Calendar was tabled so that certain details could be further refined.

**Committee Documentation and Forms** KONTOTHEORGOPOULOS brought up technological difficulties with the electronic versions (spreadsheets) of the ten new course proposal forms. Allied with this was extensive discussion about workflow that might allow the digital versions of these forms to remain digital all the way to receipt by HUTCHINSON, while still being acknowledged and approved along the way by the chair of the originating department(s). KONTOTHEORGOPOULOS will write instructions consonant with the discussion, for discussion at the next meeting.

MARCAVAGE suggested making simplifications to the forms, which KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS indicated could be better handled at the end of the process.

The motion to adjourn was made by RICHMAN, professor of Art, at 1:51 PM. The next meeting of the full committee will be Friday, April 8 at 1 PM in the McCormick Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Beezer