

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the April 22, 2016 Meeting

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

Visitor: Lisa Hutchinson.

KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS called the meeting to order at 12:59 PM in the McCormick Room.

The minutes of the April 15, 2016 meeting were approved with several editorial adjustments.

There were several announcements from the Chair. Year-end reports from the working groups are due to KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS by May 2, while Working Group 2 has theirs in already. KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS expects to present to the Faculty Senate on May 11.

KONTOGEOURGOPOULOS has completed the detail work on the committee's forms and guidelines. He has created a new set of guidelines for faculty *proposing* interdisciplinary majors, minors and emphases, from a subset of the guidelines created for working groups *evaluating* those proposals.

Working Group 1 Report EVANS presented his group's guidelines for working groups reviewing areas of the Core Curriculum. There was discussion about dropping the suggestion a working group propose survey questions to Institutional Research (IR) for the next survey. It was felt that IR already develops good questions, and with a seven-year cycle, the questions will be too old. So it will be incumbent on each year's committee to look forward to the next year's areas and propose questions. **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 2 Report MARCAVAGE reported that they had concluded all of their projects, and submitted a final report to the Chair.

Working Group 3 Report RICHMAN presented her group's guidelines for working group reviews of departments, programs and schools. Her group wrestled with the 9-unit upper limit on required courses from within a department for a major. This discussion will be carried over to next year's committee. **Action:** Approved.

The proposal for an Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Minor has been delayed by the necessity of a discussion within the department about a gateway course.

Working Group 4 Report LOOPER moved the approval of two course changes in a Special Interdisciplinary Major for Amanda Diaz, precipitated by an upcoming new course taught by a visiting faculty and a department's course renumbering for another part of her program. **Action:** Approved.

LOOPER presented her working group's report on their review of the Economics Department. Discussion centered on the 11-13 units required (depending on whether the degree is a B.A. or B.S.), and the fact that a student could earn a major and avoid any of the department's courses with a diversity component. The report urges the department to consider including the KNOW overlay into some of their offerings. **Action:** Approved.

LOOPER reported on their guidelines for working groups reviewing Core and KNOW course proposals. The working group would be interested in any contributions from Working Group 2 on reviewing proposals for Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry. There was some uncertainty about describing the recent change for KNOW proposals, since that change to the Curriculum Statement will require approval from outside the committee. KONTOTGEORGOPOULOS suggested the guidelines reflect current policy and be changed once the committee's recommendations are approved. **Action:** Approved.

The Science, Technology and Society 5-Year Review is pending, in addition to a new KNOW course proposal.

Upcoming Course Proposal FERRARI brought to the committee the potential of a Connections course proposal coming in over the summer for a Fall 2016 offering. It was the committee's feeling that such a course might attract very few students since rising juniors and seniors have already registered. It would be a better use of personnel to offer a course for first-year students instead, and propose the course for approval by the full committee during Fall 2016 for a Spring 2017 offering.

Cycle of Reviews KONTOTGEORGOPOULOS reported that the current five-year cycle of reviews of departments, programs and schools, is enshrined in the Faculty By-Laws. So to implement the change to a seven-year cycle will require more than the committee's previous vote. Next year's committee will need to take on this task.

Senate Charges for AY 2016-17 KONTOTGEORGOPOULOS solicited suggestions for charges the Faculty Senate can give to next year's committee.

- Adherence to the 9-unit limit for majors. (Above)
- Changes to the Curriculum Statement and Faculty By-Laws. (Above)
- HUTCHINSON suggested the committee consider where the dates for proposed academic calendars originate. Current practice is the Associate Deans Office, while in practice the dates first come from a planning tool maintained by the Registrar's Office.
- HUTCHINSON stated that the March 1 deadline for course proposals comes at a busy time of year and does not always leave enough time for approval and integration.

SSI + KNOW O'NEIL and PANKOW re-opened the discussion about the clarity of the new language for courses meeting the SSI core area and the KNOW graduation requirement, with proposed modifications. Reminded that the present version required a vote at a faculty meeting, they rescinded their suggestion.

Final Meeting FERRARI led a round of appreciation to the student members, NEWMAN, O'NEIL, and PANKOW, for their conscientious participation on the committee this year.

With very little business for the full committee, it was decided the remainder could be handled by electronic mail. Draft minutes, the Science, Technology and Society 5-Year Review, and a KNOW course proposal will be circulated for approval. The usual procedure of silence equated with approval will carry over to the virtual domain, with a suitably longer time to react.

The motion to adjourn was made by MARCAVAGE, professor of Art, at 2:01 PM. The committee will reconvene September 2016.

Electronic Business The following items were accomplished by electronic mail, with a 48-hour comment period.

LOOPER, representing Working Group 4, moved approval of Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry I 104, *Travel Writing*, as proposed by Priti Joshi (English) to meet the KNOW graduation requirement. **Action:** Approved.

LOOPER, representing Working Group 4, moved acceptance of the Science, Technology and Society 5-Year Review. **Action:** Accepted.

Self-referentially, these minutes were approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer