

Curriculum Committee Minutes January 27, 1999

Present: Barnett, Cannon, Goleeke, Grunberg, Kirkpatrick, Kline, Livingston, Mehlhaff (Chair), Pinzino, Proehl, Stevens, Warning, Heavner, Bartanen

Absent: Hooper, Sugimoto, Tomhave, Washburn

At 5:07 p.m. Mehlhaff started the meeting.

Minutes. **Cannon M/S/P approval of the minutes for the meeting of 2 December 1998.**

Announcements.

1. Mehlhaff checked to be sure that members of the committee had received the latest "Administrative Curriculum Action" report.
2. Mehlhaff announced that the Faculty Senate discussed the committee's **Core Assessment Plan** at the Senate meeting of 7 December 1998, with Mehlhaff, Kline, and Bartanen in attendance. The Senate officially "accepted" the plan and thus did not formally "approve" it. Mehlhaff urged colleagues to read the Senate minutes for an account of the deliberations. Mehlhaff stated that Senators expressed some concerns, but in Mehlhaff's judgment these do not alter the committee's proposed procedures.
3. Bartanen announced that a faculty member has raised the question of what action might be appropriate if a student wishes to propose a Special Interdisciplinary Major (SIM) but lacks the minimum GPA requirement of 3.0. This may be an item of business for the committee.

Subcommittees.

EDUCATION. Proehl distributed copies of a written report and said that the subcommittee found particularly impressive the Education faculty's "work on assessment" and "effort to improve the program based on discussions amongst the faculty and feedback from students," as well as the faculty's involvement in the University's undergraduate core curriculum and membership on standing committees of the University faculty. Changes in the Education program include the termination of the M.Ed. for classroom teachers in Learning, Teaching, and Leadership; this change reflects a general decline of interest in this kind of degree program at many institutions. Other changes include new courses and deleted courses. Proehl said the review report is "strong" and that he wished to affirm "the good work done."

ACTION: Proehl M/S/P that we approve the five-year review of the School of Education.

In discussion Mehlhaff asked if the University has established any limitations on the number of units in graduate programs. Kline explained that Education has a fixed program entirely serving the degree. Bartanen added that each of the three graduate programs (Education, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy) has 12-13 units, all in the program. Heavner asked if the deletion of courses removes vital curricular opportunities; Kline replied that deleted courses were in the discontinued degree program for classroom teachers. Mehlhaff asked about Continuing Education courses generally, and Bartanen explained that the University does have a longstanding review process for such courses, although they are experiencing declining interest.

MUSIC. For the subcommittee Stevens distributed copies of a written memorandum and said that the review report was "well done," although the subcommittee did have some questions (for example, about declining enrollments in the Music/Business degree program).

ACTION: Stevens M/S/P approval of the School of Music five-year curricular review.

In discussion committee members considered the “pre-professional” nature of the degree in music performance. Stevens said that most students select the BA degree, which has fewer units.

Core revision. Heavner asked about the revision of the core curriculum and said that students would like to have a role in writing the guidelines for the new core rubrics. As chair of the Student Diversity Committee he wondered if “diversity of thought,” for example, could be part of the revised core requirements. Barnett expressed the view that the curriculum is a faculty responsibility and recalled the procedure by which the faculty created the core guidelines following the approval of the structure and general content of the current core curriculum. Stevens commented that while the curriculum is the faculty’s responsibility, consultation with students would be appropriate.

At 5:52 p.m. Stevens M/S/“P” that we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne W. Barnett
27 January 1999

green2:CC27JAN9