

Date: April 29, 1999

To: Bill Haltom, Chairperson, and members of the Faculty Senate

From: L. Curtis Mehlhaff, chairperson Curriculum Committee

Subject: End of Academic Year 98-99 Report

The Curriculum Committee has met on a weekly basis on Wednesdays from 5-6 pm. This has not been optimum for personal conveniences, but has produced the best meeting attendance that I can remember. This group has functioned more effectively and efficiently than any Curriculum Committee that I have been a member. They are to be congratulated and lauded for their ability to deal with a very difficult agenda. A detailed calendar of our particular achievements and actions is attached to this memo.

The Committee spent most of the fall semester dealing with the first charge from the Senate (examine and propose an ongoing assessment for the Core). The Committee reported its proposal to the Senate on December 7, and the senate accepted our report.

The Committee postponed work on the second charge (reviewing the Com I Core Guidelines) until next year. The Committee had also previously postponed looking at writing in the major until next year. Next year was scheduled to be the "fallow year", the year the Committee reviews all of the Core classes and guidelines.

Fulfilling its third charge, the Committee routinely reviewed seven programs (five year review) and approved postponing three program reviews until next year. The Committee also approved 18 classes for Core status.

The Committee worked on the fourth charge (study provisional summer approval of Core classes) and came to the same conclusion as last year's Committee. The Committee believes that there are too many "dangers" in changing current procedures despite the increased academic efficiency of a "summer core approval" process.

In the process of its normal business two major issues arose: (1) there are no guidelines for content or quality (upper division versus lower division) for either the minor or interdisciplinary majors and programs and (2) the faculty is dissatisfied with the current fall academic calendar (the recent poll shows 2/3 of the faculty voting for change, 110 faculty responding).

The Committee resolved the "lack of standard" issue by a modification of the five year review process. The language of the five year review document has been changed and now asks interdisciplinary majors and programs to justify their mix of classes.

The Committee (by motion) asks that next year's Committee be given the charge of continuing the process of finding a fall calendar that will be acceptable to a majority of the faculty and students.

The members of the Curriculum Committee are troubled by the uncertain status of next year's major charge (the review and assessment of the Core). The Committee had set aside every fifth year as the "fallow year" to do this assessment. The Committee has composed a memo which it had intended to send to all departments asking for syllabi for all Core classes (postpone?). Those documents were to be the primary data for the review process. Since the faculty seems to be proceeding to change the Core, is the review of current Core rubrics and classes appropriate? The Senate should re-examine the charge to the Curriculum Committee for next year to give the Committee more guidance for the "fallow year" review.

Curriculum Committee Disposition of 1998-1999 Agenda

I. Curriculum Reviews

10-21-98	Exercise Science Review approved
10-28-98	Economics Review approved
11-18-98	International Political Economy Program approved
1-27-99	School of Education Review approved.
1-27-99	School of Music Review approved.
2-3-99	Art Department Curriculum Review approved.
3-10-99	Foreign Languages and Literature Review approved.

II. New Programs

12-2-98	Approved a Special Interdisciplinary Major in Languages for Erin Harold.
4-28-99	Classics Major approved

III. Holdover business from 1997-1998

University Accreditation (Educational Outcomes), begun in Spring 1997; continued in 1997-1998 with development of a pilot core assessment program in three core areas: Communication I, Fine Arts, and Science in Context. Project continued in 1998-1999 with final assessment plan adopted 11-4-98. Reported to and accepted by the Faculty Senate on 12-7-98.

IV. On-going business

Academic Calendar

10-14-98	Approved the 1999-2000 full academic calendar, and the basic academic calendar for 2002-2003.
4-21-99	Approved a faculty poll to determine interest in adjusting fall term calendar

Action on core courses

9-30-98	PHIL 108, Infinity and Paradox(freshman seminar) for the Mathematical Reasoning core
9-30-98	CLSC 210, Greek Mythology, for the Humanistic Perspective core
10-14-98	SCXT 325D, Salmon Recovery in the Pacific Northwest: Science in Conflict, for the Science in Context core
11-18-98	PHIL 107, Making Choices about the Environment: An Introduction to Philosophy, for ongoing inclusion in the Humanistic Perspective core
11-18-98	HUM 307, Shanghai and Tokyo in the 1920s, for the Comparative Values core
11-18-98	HIST 344, The Chinese Frontier in Comparative Perspective, 1600-1960, for the Comparative Values core
11-18-98	REL 340, Reflection and Juxtaposition of Asian Texts, for the Comparative Values core (PRAST 1999-2000)
12-2-98	ECON 170, Principles of Economics, for the Society core.
12-2-98	CLSC 231, Greek and Roman Epic: Genre and Meaning, for the Humanistic Perspective core
2-17-99	EDUC 418, Comparative Education, for the Comparative Values core
2-26-99	SCXT 335, Thinking About Biodiversity, for the Science in Context core
2-26-99	SCXT 370, Technology and Work in the Modern World, for Science in Context core credit, with the provision that approval is for one year only
2-26-99	BIOL 207, Principles and Practices of Conservation Biology, for Natural World core (PRAST 1999-2000 course)
3-10-99	FL 375, Nationalism and Modern Japanese Literature, for the Comparative Values core

- 3-10-99 FL 383, Latino Literature: Borders, Bridges, and Fences, for the Comparative Values core
- 3-10-99 FL 350, Semiotic Theory in Interart Discourse, for the Fine Arts core
- 3-10-99 FL 115, The Problem of Theodicy in World Literature, for the Humanistic Perspective
- 4-21-99 SCXT 325E, Science and Policy: Hormonal Mimics in the Environment, for the Science in Context core

V. Other Curricular Business

- 9-9-98 Reaffirmed delegation of certain curriculum decisions to Associate Dean
- 9-9-98 Approved deferral of English Curriculum Review until 1999-2000
- 9-9-98 Approved deferral of Women Studies Curriculum Review until 1999-2000
- 10-28-98 Approved deferral of Biology Curriculum Review until June 1999
- 2-17-99 New major requirements in Politics and Government approved
- 3-3-99 Approved memo to be sent to those faculty members teaching in the core regarding fallow year review of the core curriculum.
- 4-14-99 Approved revision of the Department Curriculum Review: A Self-Study Guide to incorporate references to Interdisciplinary Programs and Educational Assessment.

VI. Business to be carried over to 1999-2000

- Fall semester calendar
- Communication I Core Guidelines (to be deferred until the core reform is complete)

VII. Departmental reviews scheduled for 1999-2000

- Biology
- English
- Women Studies

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