

TO: Faculty Senate  
FROM: Christine Kline, Chair  
Curriculum Committee  
RE: 1997-1998 Year-end Report  
DATE: May 1, 1998

The Curriculum Committee has completed its work for the year, and I am attaching the Disposition of Agenda. As you will note, we completed seven curriculum reviews, approved one new program, and a number of new core courses. Among other actions listed, I would like to call attention to our approval of the elimination of a Physical Education Bachelor of Arts degree and of a Physical Education minor (and accompanying "special programs"). We added the approval of Special Interdisciplinary Majors to the Curriculum Committee's regular duties and revised (with approval) the "Department Curriculum Review: A Self Study" to incorporate assessment of departmental learning goals. We approved the deferral to 98-99 of the Economics Curriculum review and the Foreign Language Curriculum Review.

Regarding the Senate's charge to the Curriculum Committee (formally charged in the fall of 1998, actually begun in the spring of 1997) to develop a process for systematic assessment of the Core, we developed three pilot assessment instruments that represented a range of methods in three distinct core areas: Fine Arts (perspectives), Science in Context (integrative), and Communication I (skills), which are currently being implemented. The resulting data will be analyzed in the fall to determine validity and to examine feasibility for an ongoing systematic assessment. The committee's deliberations and actions are part of a committee-approved Action Plan (see attached) which will result in a formal recommendation by November 1, 1998.

In other business to be carried over to 1998-1999, the Communication I Core Guidelines will be reviewed pending the completion of core reform. Among the issues in the guidelines to be examined are the function of audience and mode in writing and the role of the computer in writing. Regarding future committee endeavors, the committee has expressed an interest in a review of the writing in the major requirement and in the role of computers in learning across the university.

In addition to the above work next year, the Curriculum Committee also will be reviewing ten programs, auguring a very full year. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the faculty who worked tirelessly on the many committee activities this year; their generous work with colleagues during curriculum reviews and their contributions to the accreditation work are especially noted. A special thanks, too, to the Associate Dean and the Assistant Dean for their steady and insightful support.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kline