

Curriculum Committee Minutes January 24, 1997

Present: K. Bartanen, H. Bruce, T. Fikes, D. Lupher, C. Mehlhaff, M. Morgan, S. Neshyba, G. Proehl, G. Tomlin, M. Valentine, and C. Washburn.

Mike Veseth also in attendance to discuss Individualized Interdisciplinary Major proposal.

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 by chair, George Tomlin.

The minutes of the December 11, 1996 meeting were approved as posted on the web.

George Tomlin asked whether there were any announcements.

Kris Bartanen announced that Bruce Bowerman from ISAIS would be visiting campus on Monday January 27. Anyone interested in knowing more about study abroad programs and faculty exchange fellowships might want to consider meeting with Bruce informally. Check with Janny for available times.

Carrie Washburn announced that AAC & U* publications list was available from George Tomlin. This list contains information regarding curriculum issues in higher education and includes topics related to projects on diversity, women and science literacy, general education in an undergraduate curriculum among others. Interested parties might also check the website. The URL is <http://www.aacu-edu.org>.

*American Association of Colleges and Universities

Carrie Washburn surveyed the curriculum committee members and the members present settled on Tuesday from 12:00 - 1:00 for Spring semester meeting times. Li 134 is available for these meetings.

George Tomlin called for discussion of the Interdisciplinary Individualized Major (I.I.M.) that was distributed via email and in hard copy form at the meeting. The subcommittee chaired by Ron Fields had met with Mike Veseth to develop the strongest possible program.

The premises of the proposal assume that approval of an I.I.M. depends on:

1. A strong collaborative supervisory relationship between the student and her faculty advisor and advisory committee.
2. Proposal of a rigorous program for students of high academic standing whose intellectual and academic pursuits cannot be met by the existing curricula
3. A strong project component in upper division work, e.g., senior thesis or project

Several questions were raised about the administration of the program. Upon approval by the curriculum committee, the day to day administration of an I.I.M. approved program is the responsibility of the student's faculty committee and faculty advisor.

The transcript of a student who has completed an I.I.M. will read I.I.M. with a line of emphasis in the area of study. The committee should make a case for B.A. or B.S. degree at the time of the student's initial proposal to the curriculum committee.

Several questions were raised about faculty expertise and it was assumed that faculty would not work to propose a program of study outside of their areas of expertise.

Discussion was raised about the term "Individualized." No reasonable alternative was determined. It was recommended that the subcommittee take this under advisement and seek an appropriate alternative that might account for the fact that many students may seek a similar course of study and therefore negating the connotation of "individualize" as unique to a particular student rather than "currently not available at U.P.S."

Bartanen recommended a revision to section IV of the proposal which currently reads:

A. Faculty advisor and student prepare statement to include:

1. Educational objectives.
2. How courses meet the educational objectives.
3. List of courses.
4. Demonstration that existing programs do not meet these objectives.
5. Statement, plan, letters of support/agreement from faculty advisor and members of the supervising committee, and student transcript sent to Curriculum Committee.

To:

Criteria 1 - 3 will remain the same. However, criterion 4 will read:

4a. Demonstration that existing programs do not meet these objectives.

4b. The student application will include supporting evidence from the faculty advisor that demonstrates

- The ways in which the student's proposed course of study is distinct from the existing program of study
- The ways in which there is sufficient background among the faculty committee to support the student's proposed course of study
- Designation of the proposed course of as satisfying the requirements for a B.A. or B.S. degree

Retain the current criterion 5.

The members voted unanimously to accept the I.I.M. proposal as amended by Bartanen.

Tomlin called for a vote on student Brad Johnson's proposal for an I.I.M. in environmental policy.

It was recalled that the proposal had been tentatively approved pending acceptance of the I.I.M.

The members present called for an affirming vote, which was unanimously given for Brad Johnson's proposal to be implemented beginning Spring 1997.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather E. Bruce