

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

24 January 1996 (Wednesday)

Misner Room

Present: Barnett, Bartanen, Cousens, R. Fields, Jackson, Kerrick, Kline, Matthews, Merz (Chair), Morgan, Neshyba, Orloff, Paris, Tomlin, Valentine, Washburn

Absent: Clifford, Magnus, Rao

Merz began the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

Minutes. The committee approved the minutes for the meeting of 5 December 1995 with the following correction pointed out by Barnett: In the paragraph on "Committee governance" (p. 2), line 3, the phrasing should be "The Senate's **discussion**" (not "dislocation").

Announcements. Merz invited the committee's attention to the Faculty Senate's ongoing deliberations regarding faculty standing committees. The Senate is considering possible changes in the provisions for the Curriculum Committee in the Faculty By-laws: One possibility is an increase in the suggested number of faculty committee members from "no fewer than seven" (current By-laws provision) to "no fewer than twelve"; another possibility is the addition of the routine review of the core curriculum to the list of the committee's mandated charges. The Senate also is considering suggestions for possible changes in the committee's internal document of procedures (for example, whether in a departmental curricular review a member of the department should serve on the review subcommittee).

Subcommittee reports. Merz commented that subcommittee reports will be numerous in coming weeks because of the impending deadline for catalogue copy for 1996-97. After weekly meetings for this curricular work the committee can take up the matter of the departmental self-study questions for departmental reviews. In the meantime, committee members should make notes of any suggestions for changes in the self-study document.

COMPARATIVE VALUES. Neshyba reported the subcommittee's favorable review of a new course in Philosophy:

ACTION **Neshyba M/S/P approval of Philosophy 390 - Feminism and Philosophy for the Comparative Values core.**

This is a one-time-only course to be offered in summer 1996 by Lori Alward. In discussion Barnett raised the question of whether one-time-only courses taught by temporary faculty should be in the core, particularly the CV core, which is one of the two core categories that do not allow transfer credit. Merz explained that the sponsoring department provides an appropriate context for the course. Washburn added that in recent years a course similar to the one under discussion was in the CV core as taught by a temporary faculty member; the course has a background.

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE. Barnett distributed a document summarizing changes proposed as part of the department's quinquennial review and **M/S approval of the Mathematics and Computer Science curriculum with changes as indicated.** The department proposes one big change, the alteration of the current major in Mathematics and the current major in Computer Science to be a contract major in each case, with the creation of an advisory committee of three faculty members (including faculty outside the department of Math/CSci) for each student. Other proposed changes are adjustments in courses and the introduction of a senior thesis for qualified students. The subcommittee expressed satisfaction with proposed changes, as well as with the department's provision for Writing in the Major.

Discussion initiated by Cousens focused on the possibility that the proposed contract major of at least eight units and no more than sixteen units including ancillary courses could permit a student

to do all course work in the major within the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Barnett explained that no more than nine units in Mathematics could satisfy the Math major, with additional courses (up to seven) outside Math; a similar limit of nine units in Computer Science would apply to the CSci major. Cousens and others expressed concern that the "supporting" (ancillary) courses nonetheless could be within the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Matthews stated that Mathematics and Computer Science are two different disciplines that happen to be organized as the same department. Others expressed caution about permitting all ancillary courses in any case to be from any one department. Neshyba stated that the advising process is crucial to the concept of the contract major. Cousens urged the committee to state a policy that would encourage students to do work outside the department, not just to depend on advising to assure liberal education; permitting a student to do 16 units in the same department would set a precedent we may not want. Jackson pointed out that the major as proposed could consist of only eight or nine units in Mathematics for the Math major (or Computer Science for the CSci major), with all work above the minimum being electives. Paris noted that the design of the major includes no written statement that the "up to 16" units are all to be in the department. Cousens stated his general view that the potentially seven supporting units should not be from any single department.

Fields **M/S/P to amend the motion to state the elimination of consideration of the contract major for the moment**; the amendment passed by a mixed vote of 6 in favor, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention.

ACTION **M/S/P approval of the Mathematics and Computer Science curriculum with changes as indicated [except for the contract major], with elimination of consideration of the contract major for the moment.** (NOTE: The vote on the motion as amended included one "no" vote.)

The meeting came to an end at about 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne W. Barnett (25 Jan 96)

c:\winword\curric'm