

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

21 February 1996 (Wednesday)

Misner Room

Present: Adams, Barnett, Bartanen, Clifford, Cousens, R. Fields, Jackson, Kerrick, Kline, Magnus, Morgan, Neshyba, Orloff, Paris, Tomlin, Valentine, Washburn

Absent: Matthews, Merz (Chair)

Visitor: Van Enkevort

Acting in place of Chair Merz (out of town) and also in place of previously designated temporary chair Matthews (ill), former chair Tomlin began the meeting at 8:03 a.m.

Minutes. The committee M/S/P to adopt the minutes for the meeting of 14 February 1996.

Announcements. Bartanen reminded the committee of the Brown and Haley lectures featuring Edward Linenthal and continuing through Thursday of this week.

On behalf of Merz, Washburn conveyed that the chair of the Department of Physics, Alan Thorndike, by way of a conversation with Merz has requested a deferral in the submission of the Physics departmental review, scheduled for this academic year. The committee acted as follows:

ACTION M/S/P to accept the request of the Department of Physics to defer the Physics curricular review until next year.

In discussion, in response to an inquiry about the basis for the request, Clifford explained that the departmental program currently is in flux and provides reasonability to postpone the review. Washburn and Bartanen commented that twelve departmental reviews are on the committee's schedule for this year, with only seven reviews on schedule for next year. The postponement suits a reasonable reapportionment of the committee's work in this regard.

Subcommittee reports

COMMUNICATION I. Kline reported that the subcommittee had considered three proposals: Humanities 110 - Legends of the Fall (Denise Despres) and Humanities 111 - Utopia, Anti-Utopian (Rob Garratt), with initial offerings proposed for Fall 1996, and Philosophy 100A - The Nature of Nature (David Magnus), with initial offering proposed for Spring 1997. The subcommittee looked for substance, ideas, and themes in the proposed courses and for indications that the courses would be "writing intensive and also involve intensity of writing" (Kline attributed these words to Sarah Sloane, who is among English faculty members who have met with the subcommittee with reference to English 101, all of the syllabi for which have now come to the subcommittee).

ACTION Clifford M/S/P to adopt these three courses [Humanities 110, Humanities 111, and Philosophy 100A] for core status in Communication I. (NOTE: In the vote on this motion Magnus abstained).

Barnett pointed out that the course-proposal process seems to have no mechanism by which a department has official awareness of proposals that are outside a proposer's department, even though such proposals have staffing implications for the department; the form does not require the signature of the chair of the department in which the proposer has appointment. Clifford stated that this issue is important: Is a faculty member a member of the University faculty or governed only by the department? Tomlin said that the committee can take up this issue when we deal with procedural matters later this term.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT. Cousens reported for the subcommittee.

ACTION Cousens M/S/P approval of the five-year review of the Department of Politics and Government, with changes including two new courses and adjustments in the program.

Cousens referred to the department's "very nicely written five-year review" and characterized it as "clearly argued, and a pleasure to read." The department services a number of cooperative programs on campus, including Asian Studies and Pacific Rim/Asia Study-Travel, Foreign Languages and International Affairs, International Political Economy, the Latin American Studies minor, and the proposed African American Studies minor.

Features of the department's revised major are as follows: (1) The major will not expect an emphasis in one of the four curricular areas; (2) the major now will permit a student to meet the International Studies and Society core requirements within the department; (3) a new required course, P&G 250 - Methods, Analysis, and Argument in Political Literature, will function as a transition from 200-level introductory courses to upper level courses and will have two introductory courses (selected from the four available) as a prerequisite; (4) a course with a grade of "C-" or "D" now will be applicable to the major (although the University requirement of a 2.0 minimum GPA in the major still applies); (5) PLEC courses can count toward the major (although PLEC 201 will not be a substitute for required P&G introductory courses). The major remains at nine units, including P&G 250.

In addition to P&G 250, another new course is P&G 330 - The Political Economy of U.S. Foreign Policy. In discussion Magnus asked about the relationship of the new P&G 330 and P&G 331 - U.S. Foreign Policy. Cousens explained that eventually these courses are to be quite separate entities, with 330 emphasizing economics and clearly differentiated from 331 and a course yet to be proposed ("P&G 33n" - War and Diplomacy, which will replace P&G 335 - U.S. National Security). Bartanen said that the current overlap between 330 and 331 prompted the following caveat in the *Bulletin* copy: A student who took P&G 331 in Spring 1996 cannot receive credit also for the new foreign policy course, P&G 330.

Cousens reported that the subcommittee's deliberations yielded some issues that can be on the agenda for the department's next review: (a) a possible change in the major from nine units to ten units, (b) the department's commitment to the subfield of political theory and thought, (c) double counting courses in the core for the major, (d) course number and title changes.

BUSINESS. Clifford passed out copies of a document outlining the Business Leadership Program (BLP) and stated that this should be the last report from the committee's Business subcommittee. Proposed BLP modifications are necessary because of changes in the Business program. The BLP, which has been part of the Business program for thirteen years, requires additional course work for the major in Business, including P&G 201, two units of quantification (statistics and calculus from a specified list), 2 specified units of Economics, the regular Business major (with some courses enriched for BLP students), and four years of the BLP Leadership Seminar (non-credit, but on the transcript). The BLP/Business major also includes one upper division unit outside Business, now to be selected individually from among courses recognized as addressing "socio-economic change in response to external forces, including advances in technology, science, social structures, etc."

Discussion of the "representative sampling" of courses for the outside unit brought Barnett to inquire about the basis of selection, especially because one of the two History courses in the list has a prerequisite. The committee reached general agreement that some informal conversation might be in order in such a case, but it could take place after approval of the BLP program.

ACTION Clifford M/S/P adoption of the Business Leadership Program/Business major, with the understanding that it be a two-year provisional adoption.

(Having had to leave the meeting at 8:51 a.m., the secretary relied on informal conversation with Washburn to construct the following account of the committee's business until adjournment.)

SOCIETY. Bartanen reported on the subcommittee's consideration of Economics 152 - Economics of Social Issues, proposed by Kate Stirling.

ACTION M/S/P approval of Economics 152 for the Society core.

New business

Van Enkevort raised the issue of prerequisites for Science in Context core courses, which has come up in the business of the Academic Standards Committee (of which Van Enkevort is a member). The problem is the requirement that a student must have completed two units in the Natural World core before being able to take a course that will give the student credit for fulfilling the SCXT core. A strict interpretation of this requirement has generated problems, and the requirement may need revisiting. Discussion of this issue was inconclusive, and the committee can consider it at a future meeting.

The committee adjourned at around 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne W. Barnett (22 Feb 96)