College of Arts and Sciences COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

Meeting Minutes October 16, 2012

Present: Andy Bernstein, Jerusha Detweiler-Bedell, Jeff Feld-Gore, Judy Finch, Jim Grant, Tuajuanda Jordan, Dan Kelley, Peter Kennedy, Joel Martinez, Bethe Scalettar, Freddy Vilches, Sara Rangel, Julia Yeckes, Tamara Ko, recorder.

Guest: Nikolaus Loening, Chemistry Department Chair

The meeting was convened at 3:32pm.

Minutes from October 09, 2012 were approved.

I. Chemistry Department Schedule Request

Professor Loening explained to the Committee that there has been precedent before in scheduling lab sections during the reserved time because of limited hours and facilities. It is difficult enough as it is to schedule lab sections that do not conflict with other course times because there are blocks of times that are just not available. The chemistry department tries to schedule labs between the regular working hours of 9 A.M. and 6 P.M. so that staff members are available for support. In theory, the chemistry department could schedule lab sections during the evenings and weekends but these would not be popular options with the students. Additionally, there are good technical and safety reasons for not choosing such a schedule. While it is possible to schedule lab sections at 8 A.M., Professor Loening does not see this time as being conducive to the student experience. Additionally, an instructor who teaches a lab at an 8 A.M. time may be at a disadvantage when it comes to teaching evaluations.

Professor Scalettar pointed out that only finite demands can be placed on people, and there are only so many hours that can be requested from a staff member. Additionally, there may not be enough resources to sufficiently cover early and late lab sections.

Professor Loening said that the most salient point of the argument is that the Tuesday afternoon lab sections do not actually conflict with the faculty meetings, which is the rule in question. However, Associate Dean Feld-Gore pointed out that many other people and departments at the College rely on that reserved time to meet with students because the vast majority of them do not have scheduled courses (e.g., advising appointments, counseling sessions, etc.). This is not a

decision that just affects the faculty; it would also impact the rest of the College as well. Additionally, Associate Dean Feld-Gore does not believe that an 8 A.M. course is as adverse as some might believe; when students graduate from the College, their jobs will begin at 8 A.M. and it is part of the College's duty to teach them personal responsibility.

Associate Dean Grant proposed simply shifting the currently scheduled Tuesday lab sections earlier (so the first one begins at 9 A.M. instead), which would vacate that afternoon time. Both the physics and chemistry departments have had a philosophy about not placing excessive mental strain on students; objectively speaking, the physics lab sections do run over by at least an hour. If the new philosophy is to encourage the students to leave by a certain time though, then that will have to be the new philosophy.

Associate Dean Grant added that the Committee currently meets during the reserved time; what would happen if a permanent faculty member from the chemistry department was unable to meet because of a lab section? Professor Loening said that the faculty member would then be switched to teach the Thursday lab time. Professor Bernstein wondered whether a visitor or an adjunct member could teach at Associate Dean Grant's proposed alternatives but Professor Loening said that there is no real conflict since that Tuesday afternoon lab only meets every other week. Professor Loening added that the importance of having an extended time of transition between the lab sections is so that the students may take their time in the classroom. While the lab schedule technically could be tightened, it would not allow room for students to make mistakes and this would not fit the pedagogical purpose.

It was noted that the Committee could possibly vote on two different motions. The first would be to grant the chemistry department an exception for just the upcoming spring semester with the understanding that future lab sections would **not** occur during the reserved Tuesday time. The second motion would be to grant the department an exception for all time.

Associate Dean Grant pointed out to the Committee that there is a principle that should be honored. A time is being set aside for the academic community and members should not be prohibited from being able to partake in that time. If an exception must be granted, then that is one case but the Committee should strive to be as consistent as possible.

Motion: To grant the chemistry department an exception in scheduling lab sections during the reserved Tuesday afternoon slot for all time.

The proposal did not pass with three ayes, three nays, and two abstentions.

The Committee voted to amend the motion and take another vote.

Motion as stated but then amended for spring 2013 semester ONLY.

The motion passed with eight ayes.

II. Course Proposal Subcommittee

ENG 298 Law & Literature

This course is being proposed as a one-time offering.

HIST 298 War and Society

This is a one-time course that was previously offered and is now being proposed again with housekeeping changes (removing the previous class standing restriction and tightening the course description).

MATH 233 Calculus III

The course offering was changed to both fall and spring semesters.

MATH 282 Modeling Competition Prep

The course offering was changed from fall to spring semester.

MATH 441 Real Analysis I

MATH 442 Real Analysis II

Both courses changed course title and content description.

MUP 156 Tabla Class

Ms. Rangel explained that this was never an actual course but a private lesson, and so the music department is proposing to "drop" the course. It will continue to be offered as a private lesson.

PSY 444 Practicum

The psychology department would like to offer this course in the college catalog with variable credit

TH 104 Stage Makeup

TH 212 Stagecraft

TH 218 Fundamentals of Design

TH 220 Theatre Graphics

The theatre department is proposing to either moderately raise current fees or implement a new one for these four courses.

Due to time constrictions, the Committee elected to vote on all course proposals in one solid group.

The course proposals were unanimously approved.

III. Psychology Internship/Practicum/Independent Study Regulations

Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell said that students are currently limited to applying 16 internship credits towards graduation, and can take no more than four credits in a given semester. This policy was approved by the 2008 Committee in a bid to maintain balance over credits being earned in the classroom and in internships/practica.

The psychology department currently offers a 445 course called Psychology Internship, which meets as a class and also requires hours off campus in a joint internship experience, and is essentially a capstone course offering four credits. While PSY 445 does not count towards the four-credit limit per semester, it does count towards the 16-credit limit towards graduation. The psychology department pedagogically feels that PSY 445 is truly a course and should not be grouped with the X44 and X99 courses because it implies a certain type of experience.

Registrar Finch pointed out that there is currently a sentence in the catalog policy that could be removed in order to remove PSY 445 – and other courses that are in a similar situation – from such a restriction.

Credit earned for practicum and internship experiences under other course numbers is included in the 16-credit limitation.

If this sentence is deleted, the worse case scenario is that a student could potentially receive 24 credits instead of 16 but that would be very rare. It is more possible that there will be more students earning 20 credits. Students sometimes choose to take an internship even knowing that those credits will not count towards graduation.

Professor Kennedy supports the motion to remove the targeted sentence but also wondered whether the psychology department would be open to changing the course title. Dean Jordan added that the "internship" in the course title does add to the confusion and could help eliminate some of the ambiguity if it was replaced.

Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell said that the psychology department is not averse to changing the course title but thought it might be viewed as going around the policy. She suggested that the Committee vote on the current motion of deleting the proposed sentence from the catalog and then encouraging the department to move forward with a title change. Registrar Finch informed the Committee that the deletion of this sentence would make the policy easier for students to understand

Motion: To remove the proposed sentence, "Credit earned for practicum and internship experiences under other course numbers is included in the 16-credit limitation" from the policy.

This motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Inside-Out Proposal

Co-Chair Martinez explained that Professor Reiko Hillyer is currently petitioning to allow credit to be given to the inmates in the course that was offered underneath the Inside-Out Program. One goal of the program is to encourage inmates to pursue higher education and this has been an effective way of doing so. There is also precedent at other higher education institutions granting credit to inmates at no cost. Professor Hillyer wondered what the Committee would require in order to move forward with discussion.

Dean Jordan said that this is presently a gray area, as Professor Hillyer would first need to submit a course proposal (since this course was originally proposed as a one-time offering) to the Committee explaining her reasoning for granting the credit, and what the long-term and short-term resource impact would be. The Committee would then make a recommendation to the dean, who thus has the final say. The department and chair need to come together to help Professor Hillyer determine resources and how this course (were it to be submitted and approved again) would be supported.

Professor Bernstein said that the Inside-Out Program is an element of the College's community engagement outreach, and so would not just be limited to the history department, as other departments have also expressed interest in creating a course under the program. The questions currently on the table are whether or not the program should be continued at all, and then whether those courses would grant college credit to inmates.

Dean Jordan responded that there is still a resource issue that needs to be addressed by the department because someone needs to teach that course. The situation is more complicated now because this petition would be asking for something that is permanent from a pilot course. The course should be part of the permanent curriculum before the debate of granting credit occurs. It is difficult to determine credit underneath the current structure.

Ms. Rangel pointed out that each department would need to submit its own individual course proposal, which would mean that they each must deal with resource issues. Currently, there is no other course being taught underneath the Inside-Out Program, and it seems a bit soon to be debating the issue of granting credit for courses that do not even exist.

Librarian Kelley also said that students who take classes here are supported by IT and the Watzek Library, etc. These are all resources that would need to be considered when looking at granting college credit.

Further discussion was postponed to next week.

V. General Education Discussion

Due to time restrictions, discussion was postponed to next week. Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell highlighted a few areas to the Committee in reviewing the material; faculty approved the model Orion Prime as the new general education program. She encouraged the Committee to read the original 2010 GETF Report, and the Faculty Meeting minutes from May 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48pm.