

Approved October 30, 2012

College of Arts and Sciences
COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2012

Present: Andy Bernstein, Jerusha Detweiler-Bedell, Judy Finch, Jim Grant, Tuajuanda Jordan, Peter Kennedy, Joel Martinez, Beth Scalett, Freddy Vilches, Sara Rangel, Julia Yeckes, Tamara Ko, recorder.

Absent: Jeff Feld-Gore, Dan Kelley

The meeting was convened at 3:33pm.

Minutes from October 16, 2012 were approved.

I. Course Proposal Subcommittee

HIST 298 Environmental Histories of Science & Technology

This class will be taught as a one-time offering.

POLS 398 Russian Politics in Comparative Perspective

This class will be taught as a one-time offering.

The subcommittee had no concerns with these two course proposals.

The two course proposals were unanimously approved.

II. Inside-Out Proposal Discussion Continued

Co-Chair Martinez asked the Committee if there were any concerns in regards to the information that Professor Hillyer circulated and whether that was enough to make some kind of a vote now. Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell noted that there seem to be two different questions to consider – one on whether Inside-Out will be taught again and then one about the issue of granting credit. While the Committee could reasonably make a recommendation about the credit issues, it seems beyond its purview to determine whether or not that credit should be free. Co-Chair Martinez's understanding is that there are currently no immediate plans to teach a course. At present, only one additional faculty member has gone through the training and she does not know when she will have plans to teach a new course.

Professor Bernstein explained that the current plan is to have Professor Hillyer teach this course two years in a row, and that the history department does support this plan. It is a considerable expense to go through the Inside-Out training, so it is reasonable to expect that a faculty member will eventually want to create a course that will utilize such knowledge. Individual resource issues will need to be worked out within hosting departments; however, if the Committee can recommend that enrolled inmates receive credit for completing these courses, then departments could operate under this knowledge when proposing new courses.

Ms. Rangel questioned whether the Committee's present discussion on this issue was the most efficient way of handling the issue. Since there is currently no proposal being presented, it seems probable that a differently staffed Committee down the road could overturn any present recommendation. Professor Bernstein does not necessarily disagree with that fact but at the same time, making a recommendation would be more of a productive statement.

Registrar Finch explained to the Committee that everyone who receives credit from the College is a registered LC student; some are just registered in a special student status program. The inmates would essentially need to have a special program created just for them in order to become registered students. Special students are still required to go through an application process but it is not as rigorous as the undergraduate one. Other populations of students have taken courses at the College, and these students are allowed to register after the other students have been given priority.

Dean Jordan asked how a program is defined at the College. While Inside-Out is a national program, there should be some guidance available at the College for what is deemed suitable for LC credit. Aside from the degree-granting program, Registrar Finch said that the designated special programs are pretty loose. There is one for the Templeton Scholars Program, which is a pretty rigorous admissions process for the enrolling high school students, but pretty much anyone can join a summer course by filling out a one-page admissions form. A student could literally be in a program for twenty years since there is no certificate or completion date.

Associate Dean Grant asked what it would mean in terms of cost if the Committee were to agree to grant credit free of charge. Would inmates have full financial aid from the College? Is the College required to report to those who review the institution? Will it increase the amount of financial aid given to the students? These are actually all questions that would need to be presented to and answered by the Executive Council.

Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell sees the biggest barrier in funding resources and not knowing where they would be coming from; is it possible to find grants that the College could apply for? Professor Bernstein suggested getting in touch with the number of other institutions that do grant credit free of charge to inmates. Dean Jordan explained to the Committee that the course will

come at a cost to the institution because it is paying for the teaching faculty, transportation and insurance of the students. There are many costs not readily apparent when increasing the number of enrolled students in a course (e.g., faculty salary, facilities, security, staff support, teaching materials, etc.). Additionally, while 15 students are a relatively small population, they will take up a proportionally larger amount of time in the registrar's office in terms of needing access to WebAdvisor and IT support. However, Registrar Finch does agree that ultimately the largest cost would still be for those services and resources that Dean Jordan mentioned.

Professor Bernstein said that ultimately it comes down to what the College values as an institution. Is this program a worthy endeavor in terms of a social justice movement? Could the Committee simply recommend that inmates be granted credit and then move that statement forward to the dean's office? Dean Jordan said it could be feasible but requested that the history department propose mechanisms for how this process would ultimately look and how it could be financially supported. The history department can provide models from other comparable institutions that currently grant such credit to inmates and then present that information to the dean's office.

Motion: The Curriculum Committee recommends that inmates receive credit for completing a course taught by an LC faculty member as part of the Inside-Out Program.

This motion was unanimously approved.

III. General Education Discussion

Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell explained to the Committee that Orion became Orion Prime because of strong endorsement from the mathematical and natural sciences (MNS) division for the scientific and quantitative reasoning (SQR) requirement. The original intent of removing the "double dipping" from the international studies and social sciences requirements failed.

Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell will follow up with Former Chair Suttmeier to receive more details about the vetting process of Orion Prime. Registrar Finch stated that the list of compiled courses from last year's Committee contains many of the same ones in the current general education requirements – the only real difference would be in social sciences.

Co-Chair Martinez queried what exactly is needed from the Committee in order to move this process forward. It seems like it should be the Committee's role to think about the foundation of general education and Exploration & Discovery, understand what that means and then present vetted results to the entire faculty. Registrar Finch exclaimed that she will literally need a list of applicable courses from the Committee in order to build the new general education requirements – what are the purpose and goal that these courses are trying to meet?

Given the varying interpretations of the Orion Prime model, Registrar Finch will work on translating the visual form into words. Dean Jordan suggested to the Committee that the faculty should be reminded again of what was previously approved.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

SPAS

Professor Kennedy reported to the Committee that the subcommittee has essentially met every week since being convened. He expressed gratitude towards Professor Matthew Johnston for agreeing to join the subcommittee, and to Registrar Finch for the continuity of knowledge.

The subcommittee has been reviewing a number of different petitions, and at present, he does not have any news to report to the full Committee.

ISCC

Professor Bernstein reported to the Committee that the ISCC now consists of Professors Therese Augst, Nikolaus Loening, and Heather Smith-Cannoy. The subcommittee has approved one program in North Africa although the Committee may still need to give a final vetting.

Registrar Finch understands that the Overseas Office develops a program, and the courses in that program are proposed like any other course. In essence, the program itself does not need to be approved by the Committee, but de facto the program is indeed approved because the Committee does review every course that makes up the program.

A question had surfaced in regards to Professor Marty Hart-Landsberg's Ireland Program, which Professor Bernstein reported as having just been approved by the ISCC. Dean Jordan asked whether the subcommittee reviews the number of existing programs when they approve new ones, as it would signify a resource impact. Professor Bernstein responded that the subcommittee does look at other current programs, and Director Larry Meyers is also looking at alternating the Ireland Program with the Scotland Program. Associate Dean Grant did query whether the Ireland Program is really a new one though, as he was under the impression that it has been in existence for at least a year now.

Professor Bernstein will provide the Committee with more information.

V. Announcements

Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell reminded the Committee that departmental reviews do fall under its purview and there are some departments due for one this year. Dean Jordan said that the review schedule went out to department chairs last year, and history is up this semester for its internal self-study report. The review for religious studies was originally due as well but they received a deferral and while classics studies is up, that review will not necessarily come to the Committee.

Associate Dean Grant will find the review schedule for the departments, and also mentioned a set of guidelines that the Committee could look at for reviewing these self-studies. Dean Jordan suggested that the Committee follow what has been done previously in the past since learning outcomes will need to be rolled into four-year development plans and clarified that the Committee does review the final report (as opposed to the self-study) done by the external reviewer(s).

Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell queried the Committee on whether there needed to be a report at the November faculty meeting. At the present moment, the Committee did not see anything pressing to report out to the faculty although Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell said she would check with Executive Assistant Terri Banasek on the various modes of communicating a possible briefer report prior to the meeting.

Registrar Finch reminded the Committee that there are only two faculty meetings left in the semester, and members may want to consider what needs to be brought forward in terms of general education and Exploration & Discovery. If this process is not moved sooner, then the likelihood of implementation happening for fall 2014 decreases.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm.