# College of Arts and Sciences COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

# Meeting Minutes October 30, 2012

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

Absent: Jeff Feld-Gore

The meeting was convened at 3:32pm.

Minutes from October 23, 2012 were approved.

# I. Course Proposal Subcommittee AES 167 High Intermediate R/W Core

This is a new course.

## BIO 114 / CHEM 114 / GEOL 114 / PHYS 114 Origin of Life in the Universe

This proposal is a small change and only increases the capacity of the above courses.

## CLAS 324 Roman Women\*

This is a new course.

#### IA 313 International Ethics

This new course will be offered as an option over IA 211, which will be taught at a less frequent rate. There was a concern about whether this course would require more resources but since only one course will be taught at the same time, it should not affect current distribution of resources.

# RELS 398 Religion/Hip-Hop\*

This is a new course

#### **SOAN 498 Animal Studies**

This is a new course.

<sup>\*</sup> Approved via email.

The subcommittee had no concerns with the above course proposals, and they were unanimously approved in a group.

#### **II. General Education Discussion**

There are currently two components in conceptualizing the general education movement, one being the implementation of Orion Prime and the other on what general education means. It is noted that Orion Prime allows for one of the two required international studies courses to fulfill an arts and humanities OR social sciences requirement.

Implementing Orion Prime relies on being able to articulate the applicable courses to the general public so they can be included in the catalog. Dean Jordan had emphasized the importance of knowing and understanding general education – how is it providing a meaningful education for the students? After a year of discussion, it was the will of the faculty to adopt Orion Prime and while some may not necessarily like the rationale for the new general education, it is still the centerpiece for the different requirements because each department is driving the values of a well-rounded liberal arts education. However, Exploration & Discovery has been a crucial piece missing from discussions. Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell pointed out that the Committee can do more intellectual work around what E&D could look like in response to its review and how it could better enhance or complement the Orion Prime distribution. For example, Orion Prime would require students to complete more credits in general education than what is currently required, which could possibly be an argument for shortening E&D to one semester. As a concrete way of moving forward, Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell suggested that the Committee first review the proposed courses for implementing Orion Prime and then look towards the E&D review.

In comparison, the current general education requirements are 34 to 37, while Orion Prime is 42-55, increasing the baseline by a total of two courses. Reviewing the proposed courses from last year can help determine whether there is under or overrepresentation in certain areas. For example, the scientific and quantitative reasoning category C requirement only has nine applicable courses listed (the current list contains 12). Additionally, some departments did not submit any courses for the new requirements last year and should perhaps be encouraged to do so. Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell said it would be best to know whether the breadth of quantitative requirement is broad enough and how frequently courses are offered (available seats may need to be counted). It was noted that Associate Provost Mervyn Brockett would be the best person for acquiring such data.

There was an initial concern on whether the arts and humanities requirement was not intentional enough due to the fact that there are a significant amount of applicable courses. However, if the course has no prerequisites and does truly fulfill the requirement, then it should not be an issue. Co-Chair Martinez pointed out that determining the number of available seats in classes and

requirement guidelines are good practical questions but there is also the question of foundational thinking (e.g., common goals). He was under the impression that the Committee might want to formulate a way to help the faculty conceptualize what that common goal(s) might be.

Registrar Finch suggested that the Committee review the list of courses as if they were multiple course proposals asking to be applicable for general education. If a department has proposed a course(s) to satisfy a specific requirement, then it is the Committee's job to determine whether or not that is appropriate.

In preparation for the next meeting, Co-Chair Detweiler-Bedell recommended that the Committee look for missing departments from the course lists, under/over represented areas, permeability of the silos, and potential for areas that may have been missed. The Committee also decided that it would be useful for Director Paul Powers to attend the next meeting with ideas for moving forward. Director Powers' conversations with other involved members would be a great help to the Committee in generating a recommendation for presenting to the whole faculty.

Director Powers will be invited to attend the November 13 meeting.

## III. Subcommittee Updates

#### **SPAS**

Professor Kennedy reported that the subcommittee continues to look at appeals and will be reviewing its first self-designed major.

#### **ISCC**

The subcommittee recently reviewed a proposal to add a fall semester option to the Alicante overseas program, and since it was determined that this new option would not require any additional resources, the ISCC elected to endorse the proposal. Professor Bernstein also informed the Committee that the ISCC would be encouraging the foreign languages department to perform a thorough assessment of all the programs in Latin America to determine goals and moving forward.

It was clarified that the Ireland Program previously discussed was in fact, already approved last year.

#### IV. Other Updates

Professor Reiko Hillyer is happy to do the research on the other institutions that grant credit to inmates from completing an Inside-Out course.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41pm.