College of Arts & Science COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

Meeting Minutes December 09, 2009

Present: Linda Angst, Franya Berkman, Jim Bunnelle, Paulette Bierzychudek, Diane Crabtree, Jeff Feld-Gore, Jane Hunter (for Julio de Paula), Stuart Kaplan, Tatiana Osipovich, Stephen Tufte, Rishona Zimring, Jayson Estassi, Alex Rihm, Tamara Ko, recorder.

Absent: Julio de Paula

Chair Bierzychudek convened the meeting at 3:18pm.

The minutes from November 18, 2009 were approved.

I. Course Proposal Subcommittee

Biology Department

Biology 107 has been approved and taught as a summer course repeatedly; it is now being approved as a regular course. Registrar Crabtree clarified that adding the course to the Catalog does not guarantee its offering every summer nor that it be taught by a specific instructor.

Proposal 09.24

This proposal adds BIO 107 Field Paleontology of Oregon to the Biology curriculum.

This proposal was approved unanimously.

International Studies

Proposal 09.28

This proposal adds IS 241 Cuba Field Research Seminar as an overseas program.

This proposal was approved unanimously.

Sociology / Anthropology Department

The SOAN Department is proposing to add an internship to its department as a summer course with a possible offering as a regular semester course in alternate years. The department wishes to offer the course this coming summer and does not predict that it would be offered as a semester course more than every other year.

It was questioned why the course was not being offered as a regular practicum/internship, 244. Based on previous discussions between Registrar Crabtree and Dean de Paula, it was determined by the department that regulating the internship would limit opportunities for students.

The fact that the internship would be graded raised some concerns; departments have little or no control over the type of work the students do at the internship location, so how can their

performance be assessed? Associate Dean Hunter described two different models for how departments conduct internships; The Psychology Department adopts a more curricular-based model in which, in addition to work at the internship site, students meet together in a classroom setting, read and discuss relevant literature, write papers, etc. The grade is based on this work. The SoAn Department proposes a similar model. However, it was noted that the current proposal requires students to spend 3 hr/wk in the classroom in addition to their internship hours, which is a lot. Does this requirement perhaps apply only to the summer version of the course? Students should be encouraged to pursue internships.

Registrar Crabtree is asking Professor Bruce Podobnik to clarify course prerequisites; is it SoAn 100 only, or also 110? Will enrollment require permission of instructor? Giving the internship a course number will allow instructors to count it as part of the regular teaching load for SOAN.

Proposal 09.36

This proposal adds SOAN 290 SOAN Internship to the curriculum.

This proposal was passed with one abstention.

History Department

Proposal 09.37

This proposal adds HIST 298 War and Society in Pre-Modern Europe as a summer course.

This proposal was approved unanimously.

II. ISCC Report

Professor Angst reported that Professor Peter Kennedy's trip to Ecuador and Professor Niko Loening's Australian trip were unanimously approved.

Revisions to the study abroad application for non-LC programs were approved.

ISCC currently has a proposal from the History Department to look at how to better integrate overseas programs with majors and minors but has not yet had a chance to review it.

III. Ethnic Studies Minor Review

After reviewing additional information that Professor Young had sent, Professor Kaplan now has a better sense of how the 5 themes are integrated into the program's goals (see previous discussion from 11.18.09 minutes). He suggested that the program make information about which electives focus on which themes publicly available to students as it could serve as a useful advising tool. Even though students who choose the minor must have an advisor from the program in addition to their major advisor, there will be students who are debating whether or not to pick the minor before getting an advisor. Publicized information (e.g., uploading onto the program's website) will provide an opportunity for students about the possible direction they might take within the minor.

The difference between the ideas of race and ethnicity were questioned; are the two similar in meaning? Professor Angst herself finds the term Ethnic Studies to be more inclusive because the

construct of race is problematic; biologists don't necessarily recognize it as a meaningful concept. Ethnicity is much more relevant and broadly inclusive.

In regards to the minor program's integration with the overall curriculum, it was viewed that Ethnic Studies has many connections to other departments. Professor Zimring brought up the possibility of building connections that will make literary materials more prominent in the minor, and possibly moving the word "diaspor" into the title. There was concern that students might not understand this very "academic" concept.

Overall, the Ethnic Studies Minor has encouraged students to think much more inclusively, talk openly about issues of race and ethnicity, and is a good fit with the overall mission of the College.

The Committee had expressed concern with the program's overall sustainability and that it would be desirable if the program was supported by at least one tenure-track faculty member. It is the SoAn department's intention that the newest incoming faculty member (yet to be hired) would fill that role. Additionally, Jane Hunter clarified that Hist 330 was a course that she developed and will teach again when she is no longer Associate Dean.

The Ethnic Studies Minor was unanimously endorsed by the Committee.

IV. SQR Motion

Chair Bierzychudek reported that it is necessary to determine whether the Mathematical & Natural Sciences division supports the proposed SQR requirement. She and Professor Tufte are currently organizing meetings with each department in the MNS division and aim to have a full divisional meeting in early spring semester to obtain feedback. Dean de Paula has also suggested compiling a model list of courses that would fulfill the new requirement.

The Committee will meet again next week to discuss the SQR requirement and how to further progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36pm.