

Approved February 17, 2010

College of Arts & Science
COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2010

Present: Linda Angst, Paulette Bierzychudek, Franya Berkman, Diane Crabtree, Julio de Paula, Stuart Kaplan, Tatiana Osipovich, Stephen Tufte, Rishona Zimring, Jayson Estassi, Alex Rihm, Tamara Ko, recorder.

Absent: Jim Bunnelle, Jeff Feld-Gore

The minutes from January 27, 2010 were approved.

The meeting was convened at 3:49pm.

I. General Education Update

Professor Kaplan reported that the GETF is currently making a lot of progress and vetting two to three possible models which they will then informally present to department chairs and program directors for feedback. The GETF is operating on these premises: to keep the proposals as simple as possible; the primary goal of GE is getting students out of their comfort zones; there is value in decentralizing the decision-making and assessment processes, both conceptually and politically; resources will be slim for a while. The three models on the table right now possibly include the status quo, a 2-2-2 model (in which each student is required to take two courses from the two divisions that s/he is not majoring in) and the 2-2-2-2 model (which includes a fourth "division," International Studies or International Studies/Diversity). Each division would determine its own list of courses that students could use to fulfill the requirement, and would also be responsible for coming up with an assessment process.

Asking divisions to determine their own list of course options will encourage them to discuss their current contributions to the general education program and brainstorm possible new courses (as available resources permit). The possible models would keep the credit allotment very similar to the status quo.

Chair Bierzychudek complimented the GETF on the desire to obtain public feedback prior to an official proposal presentation.

II. Course Proposal Subcommittee

Biology Department

Proposal 09.35

This proposal adds CHEM 335 as a non-lab elective in fulfilling the Biology major requirement.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Proposal 09.38

This proposal adds a new course, BIO/PSY 252, to the curriculum. Originally, the subcommittee had queried whether this new course would be too similar to other current courses, but after speaking with Chair Yueping Zhang (Psychology Department), Registrar Crabtree clarified that this course is significantly different from PSY 280. While either course would meet the same major requirement, each one appeals to a different type of student interest.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Environmental Studies Program

Proposal 09.45

This proposal updates the prerequisites for ENVS 400 and is a housekeeping change.

This is a small change and requires no voting.

Art Department

Proposal 09.46

This proposal adds more optional classes to fulfill the Studio Art major requirement.

Proposal 09.47

This proposal adds more optional classes to fulfill the Art History major requirement.

These two proposals were unanimously approved as a package.

Proposal 09.04

There is currently no official policy regarding AP credits. This proposal adds the following statement to the catalog's language.

A score of 5 on the AP Art History Exam will be considered the equivalent of Art 101 OR ART 111 and may be applied to fulfill 4 credits of the 44- credit requirement for the art history major.

A score of 4 on the AP Art History Exam will result in advanced placement into a 200 or 300-level art history course. Credit may not be applied, however, to the art history major. Consult Department Chair for placement.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Political Science Department

Proposal 09.48

This proposal drops POLS 290 from the curriculum as the professor who formerly taught it has left the College.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Proposal 09.50

This proposal changes the frequency of POLS 309 to be offered alternate years as opposed to every third year.

This is a small change and requires no voting.¹

Proposal 09.51

This proposal adds a prerequisite of either POLS 102 or 103 to enroll in POLS 201 Research Methods in Political Science.

This is a small change and requires no voting.

Proposal 09.52

This proposal changes the title of POLS 410 Law, Lawyers, and Society to Law, Politics, and Society and changes the restriction of the course from senior standing to junior standing.

This is a small change and requires no voting.

International Affairs Department

Proposals 09.49A & 09.49B

This proposal changes the catalog statement (A) of IA 312, Studies of Diplomacy, and changes the prerequisite of IA 212 to IA 100 (B).

These proposals are small changes and require no voting.

Proposal 09.53

This proposal was postponed for later discussion.

Sociology / Anthropology Department

Proposal 09.54

This proposal adds SOAN 214, Social Change, to the curriculum.

Proposal 09.55

This proposal drops SOAN 314, Social Change, from the curriculum.

These two proposals are technically a package, in which the SOAN Department proposes to shift the level of SOAN 314 to a two-hundred level course. The department is making this change to prepare for an increased need for adjuncts in the coming several years; there are many specialized SOAN courses that cannot be taught interchangeably and shifting the level of SOAN 314 will make it easier for an adjunct to teach. Additionally, SOAN 214 would be a better fit for the major.

These two proposals were approved unanimously as a package.

¹ It was noted that a change of course frequency is categorized as a “small change” request, but more information about the impact on the department’s offerings is needed (i.e., what will be offered more or less often). Registrar Crabtree will add an additional note for a detailed rationale on the Small Change Form if course frequency is being changed.

Proposal 09.56

This proposal drops SOAN 227, Radical Social Movements, from the curriculum.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Proposal 09.57

This proposal updates the list of available courses that can fulfill major requirements. It also changes the major to allow up to three culture-area courses to be applied to the major as opposed to two.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

English/History Departments*Proposal 09.59*

Based on the positive feedback the last time the 298 Ireland course was taught, Professors Campion and Callahan propose to teach it again as a one-time offering.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Chemistry Department*Proposals 09.63 & 09.64*

These proposals add CHEM 421, Neurochemistry, (09.63) and CHEM 415, Nanomaterials Chemistry, (09.64) to the curriculum as two-credit courses. Grants from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the W.M. Keck Foundation have provided money for faculty to develop of these courses and the department proposes to see how they are received by students.

Chair Bierzychudek clarified that the grants allowed faculty to attend a workshop to develop these half courses, but not to actually teach them; the addition of these courses gives Chemistry majors more elective options in the curriculum. Chair Bierzychudek also added that the majority of the Chemistry courses can be interchangeably taught; courses will be on rotation to allow each faculty member the chance to teach a half course. Adding these two courses to the curriculum will not increase a need for adjuncts.

These two proposals were unanimously approved as a package.

Proposal 09.68

This proposal drops CHEM 300, Environmental Chemistry, from the curriculum because it has not been offered in 10 years.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

It was noted that one purpose of the four-year plan developed by departments is to keep track of courses which are listed in the catalog but are not being taught, at least for an interval of 4 years, which then allows departments to do the necessary updating of the catalog. It is the department chair's responsibility to keep an eye out for such courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.