

Approved February 24, 2010

College of Arts & Science
COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2010

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

Absent: Linda Angst, Jeff Feld-Gore

The minutes from February 10, 2010 were approved.

The meeting was convened at 3:47pm.

I. GETF Report

Professor Kaplan reported to the Committee that the GETF is currently working on the 2-2-2 model and will be discussing quantitative reasoning as a separate agenda item at its next meeting. He had given a small preview of the GETF's work at the all-chairs meeting and noted that some faculty members are now interested in submitting new ideas. The GETF will also be starting division-specific meetings with department chairs next week; Arts & Humanities will be the first division.

It was queried why the GETF was not meeting with all faculty members as opposed to just with department chairs and program directors. It can be confusing to receive information secondhand or when complete information is not passed down to the rest of the department. Professor Kaplan responded that the GETF is not quite ready for a full discussion yet and is really going to rely on feedback from department chairs in creating an official proposal(s).

Chair Bierzychudek suggested having an open forum with faculty members to make sure that any proposals are properly and completely vetted. Due to scheduling logistics though, it may be easier for the GETF to receive feedback via email which could also increase the likelihood of participation.

II. Course Proposal Subcommittee

Professor Zimring is now the chair of the subcommittee.

Morocco Course Proposals

While the subcommittee did not find the overseas program course proposals to be controversial, members did have a few clarification questions. First, as a new overseas program, Professor Zimring wanted to know if it would be more appropriate to approve the course as a one-time offering pending feedback from the trip leader or to simply approve it as a permanent program. Second, there is currently no listed instructor for the

Arabic course, but she did note that experience has shown that other programs have successfully negotiated with a contracted institution with a good result. Third, she wanted to be sure that the Committee was aware that the approval of the Morocco program was not a tacit way of introducing Arabic as a permanent course offering on-campus. The Committee agreed that supporting this program would not entail the creation of a permanent Arabic course in the College's regular curriculum, something that was specifically discouraged by the Foreign Languages Department's external review, with which the Department also expressed agreement.

We were also asked to consider whether it would be advisable to introduce a new language, most likely Arabic, into the curriculum. There is no doubt that the geopolitical situation strongly suggests an urgent national need for college graduates with a good grasp of the language and cultures of the Arabic-speaking world. However, introducing Arabic at this point in time by adding perhaps one more FTE (which might then be taken away elsewhere) would simply add another under-staffed curricular offering to the already under-served populations in Chinese, Japanese and Russian.

In terms of whether to approve the course as a one-time offering or not, Registrar Crabtree reported that the precedent is to simply approve the course as a regular offering. The frequency of the course is dependent on the ISCC; that committee will need to decide which other trips would not be offered in order to offer the Morocco program. Chair Bierzychudek added a provisional approval would be warranted only if the Committee had any serious reservations. Registrar Crabtree noted that any subsequent changes to the program would also require the Committee's review, so we would be apprised of these.

Proposal 09.05

This proposal adds FL 102, Moroccan Arabic, to the Morocco overseas program.

Proposal 09.06

This proposal adds IS 240, North African Cities, to the Morocco overseas program.

Proposal 09.07

This proposal adds IS 241, Moroccan Modernity, to the Morocco overseas program.

Proposal 09.08

This proposal adds IS 242, Gender and Society in Morocco, to the Morocco overseas program.

Proposal 09.09¹

This proposal adds FL 101, Beginning Arabic, to the Morocco overseas program. This course would be taught on campus.

These proposals were approved unanimously as a package.

History Department

¹ This proposal was officially added as an agenda item.

The History Department proposes to offer a course being taught this semester as a one-time summer offering.

Proposal 09.79

This proposal adds HIST 198 History of Modern Africa² as a one-time summer offering.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

III. New Course Additions

Professor Zimring reported that the Course Proposal Subcommittee has been feeling a sense of unease when reviewing proposals to add new courses; there is not always a clear account of what course offerings would change frequency in order to allow these additions. While it is understood that the Dean of the College and the Faculty Council are in charge of reviewing resource issues, the subcommittee is still concerned about not having a clear sense of the shifts in the curriculum caused by the introduction of a new course. Professor Zimring queried whether it would be possible to receive more clarification about curricular shifts without involving the resource component.

,The subcommittee wondered whether the increase in the number of adjunct faculty teaching in the core program might be related to the addition of new courses to the curriculum. If so, should this be a matter of concern for either the Committee, the Dean of the College, Faculty Council and/or E&D?

Dean de Paula responded that he reviews course proposals to look for financial implications but that from a curricular standpoint, the subcommittee asks a very good question. What else is not being taught if a department adds new courses to its curriculum? What are the implications? The Committee should rightfully be asking such questions.

Section B, Question 4 of the course proposal forms, currently asks for “Impact on teaching load and staffing in department”. Mr. Estassi suggested possibly pulling the question out into a different section to make it more prominent. However, the Committee noted that this question does not usually get at the core of the matter, as question 4 seems more related to resource issues.

Dean de Paula reported that the College has hired approximately 29 new tenure-track members in the past four to five years and these new members are contributing their own areas of expertise to the College’s curriculum. However, in order to accommodate new courses in the curriculum, other courses do have to be given up.

Professor Zimring noted that responsibility for teaching the first year core class used to be explicitly stated in faculty contracts; however, now it seems that over fifty percent of

² The course proposal form was submitted with a different title – Conquest, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism: Africa from 1800 to Independence. Due to a 29 character limit on the title, Registrar Crabtree will suggest to the department to keep the former title (History of Modern Africa) but then add a subtitle as needed.

the E&D faculty are adjuncts. Should the Committee be questioning this shift? It seems that the requirement aspect was removed in the hope that faculty members would volunteer to teach core courses. Ms. Rihm queried if it would be possible to create a requirement that applied not to individual faculty but to departments or divisions, stating that they needed to provide X faculty members to teaching E&D every year. She herself had a permanent faculty member as her E&D professor(s) and greatly enjoyed that experience.

Professor Zimring expressed the growing concerns of her subcommittee and Chair Bierzychudek suggested modifying the course proposal form as a first step in addressing the curricular shift and suggested some language to which the Committee seemed agreeable. It may also be interesting to raise the issue at a Faculty Meeting with the Chair of E&D, and see where the faculty stands on this issue. Registrar Crabtree informed the Committee that she is currently working on some policy changes with Professor Copenhagen – proposals which will be presented to the Committee before this semester's end – and can follow up with her on the matter at that time.

In terms of modifying the course proposal form, there had been a similar conversation about the small changes form at the last meeting. Registrar Crabtree has drafted some wording for that form and suggested the Committee look over those changes first and then possibly draft similar language for the course proposal form. The Committee will vote on both wording changes at its next meeting on Feb. 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm.