

Approved March 10, 2010

**College of Arts & Science
COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM**

**Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2010**

Present: Linda Angst, Paulette Bierzychudek, Diane Crabtree, Julio de Paula, Jeff Feld-Gore, Stuart Kaplan, Stephen Tufte, Rishona Zimring, Jayson Estassi, Alex Rihm, Tamara Ko, recorder.

Absent: Franya Berkman, Jim Bunnelle, Tatiana Osipovich

The minutes from February 17, 2010 were approved.

The meeting was convened at 3:46pm.

I. GETF Report

Professor Kaplan reported that the GETF will begin division-specific meetings tomorrow; Arts & Humanities will be the first division. Additionally, the Committee's "SQR Motion" is on the table for vetting.

The College has received its accreditation report and there is now additional pressure on the GETF due to the College not meeting the standard for assessment of our GE program. While the accreditation committee acknowledged that the College has made progress in assessing general education, it adds that more work needs to be completed in order to be fully compliant. We can't just assess the courses, we must also assess the requirements themselves. The College will need to submit a written report in Fall 2010 to show that it is making progress in assessing GE requirements. Dean de Paula recognized that while the situation may be somewhat precarious, the College is still accredited and simply needs to continue to do a good job. He has contacted the deans of University of Puget Sound and Whitman to find out how they assess their GE programs, their system has met satisfaction.

The all-chairs meeting of March 15 will be devoted to the issue of assessment.

II. ISCC Report

Professor Angst reported that the spring overseas programs have good enrollment and detailed some of the work the subcommittee is currently reviewing, including the possible establishment of a future program in Brazil.

Due to its remote location, the Konsai program is no longer working for the College and the CET Osaka program is currently being considered as a substitute by Director Larry Meyers and Professor Bruce Suttmeier. Professor Angst reported that the subcommittee has given a tentative approval for students to attend the program this coming fall.

Registrar Crabtree stressed that an official proposal needs to be brought to the Curriculum Committee for our approval. Professor Angst will relay that message back to the subcommittee.

Registrar Crabtree also mentioned that the ISCC is currently working on changes to the process of enrolling in non-LC sponsored programs and will need to pass those changes onto the Committee for approval.

III. Course Proposals Subcommittee

Economics Department

Proposal 09.33

The Economics Department is proposing a lower course cap for their senior capstone course, which would cause four 200-level courses to have lowered frequency. The department will need to officially request changes in the frequencies of the other three courses.

The Committee asked about the typical enrollment levels of those four classes, and whether they are currently required for the major. Professor Zimring offered to find more information about the pressure on the courses with changed frequencies.

While the rationale is a good one – a 12-person seminar would be an ideal situation for seniors and allow for a more individualized experience – it could quickly become a resource issue if every single department followed suit.

Registrar Crabtree noted that proposals submitted as small changes are not exempt from an approval process by the Committee; if a “small change” generates much lengthy discussion, then it should probably be considered as a “big change”. Chair Bierzychudek added that any proposal concerning a changed course frequency should not be considered as a small change.

This proposal is postponed for further vetting via email.

Sociology/Anthropology Department

The Department is proposing to change the course title of SOAN 356 from “National Identity: Japan as Case Study” to “Imagining the Nation: Culture and Identity in Nation-State Formation”. Professor Angst clarified that the course has always been primarily focused on reviewing the literature on the development of the nation state from a cultural perspective; it was never intended to just be a course on Japan.

Professor Zimring queried whether this should be considered a small change if the retraction of this course would compromise its position as an EAS offering. It may be prudent to obtain formal endorsement from affected department chairs in such cases. Professor Angst will clear the arrangement with the EAS department chair.

For clarification purposes and to keep transcripts aligned with the catalog, Registrar Crabtree suggested renumbering the course so as to not confuse it with its previous form.

Proposal 09.58

The Committee unanimously approved the course with a new number.

The Committee also approved the dropping of SOAN 356.

Foreign Languages & Literature Department*Proposal 09.70A & B*

This proposal modifies the prerequisites and catalog descriptions of SPAN 251 / 252 Intermediate Conversational Spanish.

Proposal 09.71A & B

This proposal modifies the prerequisites and catalog descriptions of SPAN 261 / 262 Advanced Conversational Spanish.

These are small changes and require no voting.

English Department*Proposal 09.73*

This proposal adds the restriction of “junior standing” to ENG 300 Fiction Writing.

Proposal 09.74

This proposal adds the restriction of “junior standing” to ENG 301 Poetry Writing.

These are small changes and require no voting.

Biology Department*Proposal 09.83*

The Biology Department is proposing to modify a current prerequisite to a co-requisite to allow for greater access into BIO 221 Marine Biology. However, Registrar Crabtree noted that there is currently no mechanism in the registration system that would enforce this co-requisite; students would need to register for CHEM 110 (the co-requisite) first prior to registering for BIO 221. However, Chair Bierzychudek acknowledged that BIO 221 is the more popular of the two and would most likely be chosen first.

Professor Ken Clifton had originally proposed dropping the prerequisite; Chair Bierzychudek will take the proposal back to Professor Clifton for further discussion.

Proposal 09.84 / 09.85 / 09.86 / 09.87

These proposals remove PSY 200 as an optional prerequisite for BIO 335 Ecology, BIO 352 Animal Behavior, BIO 390 Evolution, and BIO 408 Phylogenetic Biology.

These are small changes and require no voting.

Proposal 09.88

BIO 495 Biology Senior Research is the senior honor thesis for Biology majors and originally had a prerequisite GPA of 3.5 for enrollment. When the department began to receive numerous requests from students who hoped to enroll in the class but did not have the prerequisite GPA, the prerequisite was eliminated. However, without the minimum GPA required, students were not able to successfully complete the course. The department has reinstated the prerequisite GPA but the catalog description has not yet been updated to reflect this change.

It was queried why the title does not reflect the honors component, to which Chair Bierzychudek replied that students must earn an A on their thesis in order to receive honors. Chair Bierzychudek also added that given the fact that biology majors are physically doing research that requires lab space, chemicals and equipment, it would be impossible to make this opportunity available to all interested students.

Registrar Crabtree noted that the enforcement of this prerequisite will need the registration system to require instructor consent. This is assured by using the independent study form to sign up for the course.

This is a small change and requires no voting.

History Department

Proposal 09.91

This proposal adds HIST 398, The Civil Rights Movement to the curriculum. It was noted that the course proposal was submitted with a cap of 20; unless otherwise specified, the standard cap is 25. Registrar Crabtree will input the course with a cap of 25.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Proposal 09.79

This proposal added HIST 198 History of Modern Africa as a one-time summer offering and had already been previously vetted and approved; it is also proposed to fulfill a GE requirement.

Allowing HIST 198 to fulfill a GE requirement was unanimously approved.

IV. Proposal Forms

Chair Bierzychudek pointed out that since the Committee has agreed that proposals concerning a course's changed frequency would not be considered as a "small change", then there is no need to modify the current Small Changes Proposal Form. Registrar Crabtree will eliminate the question pertaining to course frequency and offering from the form.

For the sake of communication with faculty, it was decided that the proposed change would go into effect Fall 2010. Registrar Crabtree will update the form currently uploaded on WebDisk and then officially announce the updates in the fall.

The following question has now been added to the Course Proposal Form:

If a course is being added, or its frequency is being changed, please explain what other curricular changes (in the department, interdisciplinary programs, or the core) will occur in order to permit this course to be taught at the proposed frequency.

The wording of this additional statement was unanimously passed.

Chair Bierzychudek will be unable to attend the next meeting and Steven Tufte volunteered to serve as chair pro tem.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54pm.