# College of Arts & Science COMMITTEE ON THE CURRICULUM

# Meeting Minutes March 17, 2010

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

Absent: Julio de Paula

The minutes from March 10, 2010 were approved.

The meeting was convened at 3:48pm.

#### I. GETF Report

Professor Kaplan reported that tomorrow will be the last of several GETF meetings with divisions. He envisions the Task Force meeting once or twice afterward to draft a recommendation/proposal to present to the Committee.

#### **II. Course Proposal Subcommittee**

### Hispanic Studies Major

Proposal 09.69

This proposal modifies the current requirement for the Hispanic Studies major by officially allowing IA 231, Latin American Politics, and HIST 141/142, Colonial/Modern Latin America to be applicable towards fulfilling the major.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

#### Foreign Languages Department

Proposal 09.72

This proposal removes the prohibition of counting credits from a third language at the 100/200 level toward graduation for foreign language majors. The program evaluation software now makes it easier to keep track of whether students have exceeded the 60-credit rule, and this change will encourage students to study a wider range of languages. However, because of the 60 credit rule, it is still possible that students studying a third language may not have those credits count towards graduation if they exceed 60 credits.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

#### Religious Studies Department

Proposal 09.76

This proposal adds RELS 201, History and Theory, to the curriculum.

Proposal 09.76B

This proposal drops RELS 401, Methods in the Study of Religion, from the curriculum.

Proposal 09.77

This proposal reinstates RELS 490, Senior Thesis.

Proposal 09.77B

This proposal reduces the frequency of RELS 452, Seminar in Asian Religions, from annually to alternate years.

#### Proposal 09.78

This proposal modifies the requirements for the Religious Studies major to accommodate the previous changes.

It was noted that while the reduced frequency of RELS 452 would allow the teaching of RELS 490 next year, the Religious Studies department would need to revise frequency of other courses in order to balance the teaching load in subsequent years. Many 200 level courses are offered annually, and this seems to be the most likely place for the modified frequency.

Professor Zimring queried the additional 400 level seminar for majors as it seemed a bit excessive to require two 400 level capstone courses. It was pointed out that RELS does not have any required courses at the 100 level, and that other departments also require multiple 400-level courses.

These proposals were approved as a package with one abstention.

# Gender Studies Program

Proposal 09.97

This proposal replaces the course description wording of "maleness and femaleness" with "gender". Professor Zimring will suggest some possible suggestions for editing the catalog description of this course to Professor Deborah Heath.

This is a small change and requires no voting.

#### SOAN Department

The SOAN Department is proposing a one-time course offering for fall 2010 that is specifically focused on Professor Heath's current research. Her current teaching load will be shared with her colleagues, allowing for the addition of this course. While there were concerns about the very broad course description, these were tempered by the fact that this course will only be approved as a one-time offering.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

# III. Law School Collaboration Discussion Cont'd.1

Chair Bierzychudek reported that her own experience with teaching a course session at the law school was an interesting one and while she had no specific expectations, the law students were not noticeably more advanced compared to her undergraduates. She imagines that most undergraduates would be able to hold their own in competition with law students.

Registrar Crabtree noted that American Bar Association rules place strong restrictions on law students enrolling in undergraduate courses; this issue arose because a law student had requested for an undergraduate course to be shown on their transcript.

Professor Zimring is concerned about whether CAS professors will have the freedom to bar law students from enrolling in particular courses. Mr. Estassi wondered whether it would be possible to simultaneously offer such latitude but also to provide consistent offerings to students. However, all agreed that a possible collaboration would be a great opportunity for motivated students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Please see the Curriculum Committee minutes from March 10, 2010 for a summary of the previous discussion

Professor Berkman said that both schools have a national reputation in environmental studies and policy and that synergy between these programs at CAS and Law would draw even more students to attend. In regards to benefit of students and for publicity, it seems that combining the undergraduate and law students can only be advantageous. Associate Dean Feld-Gore commented that a lot of seniors are looking to continue their education after college and this would be a great opportunity to give students exposure to law courses and better prepare them academically.

Registrar Crabtree stated that undergraduate courses do not currently count towards the law degree and that law students cannot overload by taking undergraduate credits on top of their own course load. Professor Zimring added that it would be important to know whether courses are being audited or taken for credit, as this may impact the classroom environment. Professor Tufte noted that there are definitely some questions about the logistics of credits and answering them may come down to knowing what goals students have in mind for enrolling in such courses. Students may not necessarily need the credits but just want that course to be listed on their transcripts. If credit is not given to the students, then there is no record of the student being enrolled in the class, and no reason to design any system.

Professor Kaplan noted that it seems that the Committee is currently being asked whether or not this possible collaboration would be desirable. It may be safe and constructive to report back that there is possible benefit for both parties involved but that logistics still need to be worked out. Chair Bierzychudek said it would be a good idea to find out more about student goals and what is logistically possible given bar association rules.

Professor Bierzychudek agreed to draft a reply to Deans Hunter and Blum summarizing the Committee's discussion.

Registrar Crabtree will try to get more details from Associate Dean Hunter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.