

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

October 17, 2008 – Student Senate Room (HUB 119)

MINUTES

Present: Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Samir V. Choudhry (student, voting, 2:40 pm), Elizabeth A. Cox, Robert G. Egbert, Elliott G. Gruner, Lindsay E. Harrington (student, voting, 2:40 pm), Joyce C. Larson, Wendy J. Palmquist, Nick Sevigny (new faculty observer, non-voting), Lisa D. Spradley, David Zehr (voting as alternate to the Provost) [nine voting members]

Absent: Ashley M. Pistorino (student, voting), Anil Waghe

Excused: Julie N. Bernier, Debra A. Brown, Robert E. Fitzpatrick (non-voting)

Presenters of Proposals: Marcia S. Blaine, Kurt A. Schroeder, Cynthia W. Vascak, James C. Whiting

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all curricular changes noted below will become effective with the 2009-2010 edition of the Academic Catalog. Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed.

Wendy Palmquist called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. New student members, Samir Choudhry and Lindsay Harrington, were welcomed.

I. The minutes of the September 19, 2008 meeting were *approved as presented, 7-0-0-5.*

II. New Business

A. Social Science:

1. New course: HI 4000 History Internship (1-6 credits). Students engage in work programs and thereby apply knowledge gained from history courses. Qualifications to be an intern are determined by the faculty member who acts as a supervising professor. Once placed, student interns have both an immediate onsite supervisor and either a supervising history professor or the Discipline Coordinator's designee. Each credit usually includes 30 hours onsite plus 10 hours of additional reading. Repeatable for up to six credits. Prerequisite(s): permission of the instructor. *Approved 9-0-0-3.*
2. BA History: change requirements, as amended at the meeting [HI 2000 level, 6-9 credits; HI 3000/4000 level, 12-9 credits, including WRCO; US group, 6 credits; World group, 6 credits; HI 4444; AH/EN electives, 6 credits, AN/CM/GE/PO/SO electives, 6 credits; QRCO; TECO]. *Approved 9-0-0-3.*
3. GE 3630 Geography of Europe (WRCO): change course description; change title to Historical Geography of Europe. *Approved 9-0-0-3.*
4. PO 3250 Model UN (GACO) (INCO): change course description as amended at the meeting. *Approved 9-0-0-3.*

B. Art:

1. (a) BA Art (all options): reduce the total credits required for the degree from 122 to 120.
(b) BFA (all options): reduce the total credits required for the degree from 122 to 120.
(c) BS Art Education: reduce the total credits required for the degree from 122 to 120. [This proposal had not yet been submitted to the Council of Teacher Education.]
Discussion: The Curriculum Committee requires 15 credits of free electives. The free electives in the BA options range from 16 to 20; the free electives in the BFA options range from 8 to 19; the free electives in the BS program are 7-3. An amendment to the original motion was made to exclude any program that has fewer than 15 credits of free electives; *the amendment was approved 9-0-0-3. The original motion, as amended, was approved 9-0-0-3.*

C. Biological Sciences:

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1. BI 3030 Plant Physiology: change level to senior (4000); *approved 9-0-0-3*. New course number is BI 4750.
- D. Languages and Linguistics:
 1. (a) LL 2000 Introduction to Language and Linguistics (QRCO): change course description.
 - (b) LL 4100 TESOL Methods and Practice: change course description.
 - (c) LL 3820 Psycholinguistics: Language Acquisition (INCO): change course description; change title to Language Acquisition
 - (d) LL 4300 Literacy in First and Second Language Learning: change course description; change title to Literacy in Language Learning.
 - (e) LL 4820 Language Assessment: change course description.
Approved 9-0-0-3.
2. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate, to be offered through the Frost School. After much discussion, *a motion to table was approved 9-0-0-3.*
3. (1) LL 2000 Introduction to Language and Linguistics (QRCO): change course description.
(2) LL 3100 The History and Structure of the English language: delete as a course; last offering is Fall 2010.
Approved 9-0-0-3.

III. Reports

- A. SAPC. No report due to the Provost's absence.
- B. General Education Committee. Met September 22nd. Acted on courses seeking renewal of their General Education status and majors seeking renewal of their waiver of one Direction. Reviewed the process for student evaluations of General Education courses; the Undergraduate Studies Office is no longer managing these evaluations; academic departments are administering the documents and having the bubble sheets scored by Dr. Brown, who e-mails the results to Department Chairs. The message being sent to the departments is you have ownership of these courses. Next meeting is October 27th due to the Columbus Day holiday.
- C. Council on Teacher Education. Next meeting is October 20th. The agenda includes some curricular proposals, updates on NCATE and State accreditation reports and visits, the North Country Teacher Certification Program and an assessment of the CHECK Framework.
- D. Steering Committee. Meeting in October with the President regarding planning issues. Where are minutes to be posted; the principal policy making committees had a web page, then used the Groups tool; now there is a Faculty Governance blog which needs a moderator. Discussed shared governance, how much is faculty and how much is administration. More dialogue versus pronouncement at Faculty meetings.

IV. Discussion.

- A. Four-credit courses: Status report? Retreat? Research question? Also, curricular revision should be part of the agenda. The Committee has a history that when large issues come to it, we usually talk about them in September and October; then we get busy November through February because of Catalog deadlines; we come back to these issues in April. The Curriculum Committee created a subcommittee prior to the 1986 General Education program beginning. Do we want a smaller group of people to assemble some materials to then bring to a retreat?

Students are looking for four credit courses. The students should read the minutes of our last meeting. The Faculty voted last May not to go to four credit courses. Some departments may plan to do so any way. What is a credit? Online only course versus seat time course? If we don't know what a credit is, how can we decide three versus four? How does the Curriculum

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Committee interpret and enforce that the Faculty said no to four credit courses? We don't need to redo the work of the four credit committee (majority and minority reports). Are we going to do it on our own?

It is not completely clear what that vote meant. It didn't mean we couldn't have four credit courses. It meant to keep the status quo.

Administration pushing into more of a four credit system.

These is a mix. The Education Department does not think they can do a four credit system. Business, with outside accreditation, could not change to four credit courses without unreasonable amounts of change. Some administrators think that four credits will address Faculty workload issues; it is easy to make them shut up. The administration was officially neutral.

If we go to schools and colleges, will this change?

Our peer institutions are three credits except for Keene State College. Regional universities are three credits. Teaching versus research university. One approach—having talked some about the issue, do we use the same approach, use courses to make decision; do it hands on – more practical?

Is it our role to do what we did today with the TESOL certificate proposal? We already know we are not going to agree. Prefer to build some community. May be beyond the resources of this Committee.

Useful to have the discussion. I'm learning. Get a better sense of what I think about it. We could be perceived as arbitrary. We agree about three for some and four for some.

Some huge gray areas. Can't deal in absolutes with lots of gray areas. Deal with things as they come. Why do students want four credits? Faculty influence. A lot of faculty talk about four credit courses. We probably would not complain if it meant more in class time.

Are we going to have an answer now or when we face the proposal? Do we need to put out some statement that we are following the Faculty vote? This is unprecedented, that the Faculty voted. Our action will look at the Faculty vote for some guidance. It is not fair to let a department go to four credits when the Faculty voted versus change course by course. What does a Faculty vote mean? Interpret that vote. Can consider specific proposal.

No retreat. See what happens as proposals come. We have talked about this at two meetings.

We have not talked about curricular revision. The Provost distributed a document to the Chairs at their retreat in August; some Chairs did not distribute it to their faculty. I would like to ask why it didn't come to us and ask to have it come to us. Also a position about governance.

Motion: This Committee ask the Provost about the procedure for curricular change, particularly the document that was distributed to the Chairs, and why it didn't come to the Curriculum Committee. *Approved 8-0-0-4.*

- B. Double major issue – David Zehr. The Dean was seeking guidance from the Committee on the policy of double majors, dual degrees [see page 49 of the 2008-09 Academic Catalog]. According to policy, the degrees must be from different disciplines. One example: BA

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Music/Voice Performance and Pedagogy and BS Music Education. That request has been turned down by the Registrar; the Chair was questioned; it had been allowed previously because it fell through the cracks. An error is not a precedent. One program could be pursued at the undergraduate level and the other at the graduate level. Sometimes we have to save students from themselves.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

The Curriculum Committee meets on the third Friday of the month from 2:30 until 5 pm in the Student Senate room (HUB 119). Proposals need to reach the Chair 10 days prior to the meeting. Their next meeting is Friday, **November 21st**.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

These minutes were approved November 21, 2008.