

**Plymouth State University**  
**D\_R\_A\_F\_T**  
**FACULTY MEETING MINUTES**  
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Approximately 65 faculty were in attendance.

**I. Approval of the draft minutes** of the November 4, 2009 meeting. *Accepted as submitted.*

**II. Reports**

- A. Sara Jayne Steen, President (sent electronically)
- B. Julie Bernier, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (sent electronically)

**III. New Business**

- A. Resolutions of the Standing Committees—none.
- B. **MOTION from Biological Sciences** (Len Reitsma): The Department of Biological Sciences moves to establish the BS in Biological Science Education degree with a structure identical to what is currently in the catalog. This degree path will no longer be an option under the B.S. in Biology degree but rather its own separate degree program.

**RATIONALE:** The degree will no longer be an option under the BS degree, but will stand alone as a separate degree program. The uncoupling was necessary to work on the degree requirements of the BS in an attempt to reduce this degree to 120 credits and increase the free electives to more than or equal to 15 free elective credits. We need to treat the certification program separately due to the number of mandated courses and credits to meet requirements of NH Department of Education and NCATE.

*See Appendix A for Proposed BS in Biological Science Education.*

The motion was made by Len Reitsma and seconded. Reitsma spoke to the motion.

A majority vote is needed to approve this motion.

A vote was taken; *the motion passed.*

- C. **MOTION from the Interdisciplinary Studies Council** (John Krueckeberg): Motion. For both options (I/Multifield and II/Thematic) of the BA/BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: To remove the rule that requires 45 additional credits be taken by a student after their contract has been accepted by the Council. Please note: This motion passed the Curriculum Committee: 10 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 absence.

**RATIONALE:** The requirement for additional credits was put into place before there was a Council of tenure-track faculty members overseeing the program. Since the Council's creation, many elements guaranteeing the quality of the degree have been put into place, negating the presumable "need" for this requirement. The Council has studied the question of removing the rule for many years and found it to be unique among our peers and unconnected to the intent of the IS degree. The Council has directed the last two outside program reviewers to address it. Their recommendations and our own studies have pointed to the fact that this rule does not necessarily contribute to the courses used in the contract ("the major") and thus it does not necessarily contribute to a student's program of study. Because the number of electives a student takes has no direct academic or intellectual connection to the quality of the content in their major, this rule mainly forces electives onto a student, who may end up with a credit-inflated transcript. The distinguishing trait of IS majors should not be that their degree required them to take any extra electives beyond the 120 credits they need to graduate, let alone many electives beyond it.

The intent of the IS degree is to allow students to construct a unique major with academic and intellectual integrity. This motion keeps the core contract at 45 degrees – a contract built by a student but approved by a faculty advisor in each of the key disciplines used, approved by the faculty members on the Council, and approved by the AVP for Undergraduate Studies.

*See Appendix B for these supporting materials:* Brief history of the “45 credit rule”; Summary of current safeguards which assure academic/intellectual integrity in the IS program; Summary of how the 45-Credit Rule can hurt students.

The motion was made by John Krueckeberg and seconded. Krueckeberg spoke to the motion. A vote was taken; ***the motion passed.***

D. **MOTION from English** (Liz Ahl): Motion: To delete the English Major Contract Option.

**RATIONALE:** We are deleting the Contract Option because it is unnecessarily limiting to the few students who elect it (student has to propose a fixed list of upper level courses to take AND has to have a certain number of credits remaining in order to declare the option).

The motion was made by Liz Ahl who asked to add the following language: “Passage of this motion effectively means that a student can complete the English major with no options.” Seconded. Ahl spoke to this amendment. A vote was taken; ***the motion passed.***

E. **MOTION from English** (Liz Ahl): To create (from the Contract Option) a new BA in English (no option required). **THIS MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.**

**RATIONALE:** We are proposing a new major (though, I cannot emphasize enough, it is NOT a new major—it is a slightly revised version of the Contract Option deleted above): the BA in English. In addition to eliminating those two rules for the Contract Option above, we moved 6 credits of EN electives into the "free electives," so that students could have even more flexibility and choice. Nothing about the new major is actually new. It is more flexible and will attract more students, as well as assist students in time-to-graduation because it is much more flexible than our other options (Literature and Film, Writing, and Teacher Cert).

*See Appendix C for proposed new Major* (which is also the Deleted Contract Option, minus the contract requirements, the credits-remaining requirements, and minus 6 credits of EN electives, which are now free electives).

F. **MOTION from Music, Theatre, and Dance** (Beth Cox): To delete the Theatre History and Literature Option from the BA, Theatre Arts degree.

**RATIONALE:** Since this option was placed in the Theatre Arts degree programming, the number of students declaring this option has been minimal in contrast to Theatre’s other options. Students have typically combined this option with another PSU major or another B A, Theatre Arts option, not making it a first-choice option.

*See Appendix D for current Theatre History and Literature Option.*

The motion was made by Beth Cox and seconded. Cox spoke to the motion. A vote was taken; ***the motion passed.***

G. **MOTION from HHP** (Irene Cucina): To change the name of the option from BS Physical Education, Sport Physiology option to BS Physical Education, Exercise and Sport Physiology option.

**RATIONALE:** We are in the process of changing the Sport Physiology option to a new major called Exercise and Sport Physiology. The name change (to be effective in the 2010-2011 catalog) allows a smoother transition from option to major within the catalog, at the university and system level.

The motion was made by Irene Cucina and seconded. Cucina spoke to the motion. A vote was taken; **the motion passed.**

H. **MOTION from Business and HHP** (Trent Boggess): To approve the new degree BS in Sports Management.

**RATIONALE:** See Appendix E for rationale and description of proposed new BS in Sports Management.

The motion made by Trent Boggess and seconded. Boggess spoke to the motion and answered questions. Discussion.  
A vote was taken; **the motion passed.**

#### IV. Announcements

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice O'Connor, Scribe

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#### APPENDIX A:

**Proposed BS Biological Science Education**

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION (7-12), Bachelor of Science** 123 credits

This program is certified at both the state and national level by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Graduates who complete this Biological Science Education Option are eligible for 7-12 teacher certification in the state of New Hampshire. Because of New Hampshire's membership in the Interstate Certification Contract, Plymouth graduates are eligible to earn a certificate or license in another Contract state upon application to that state's department of education. For further information, please see the Teacher Education and Clinical Experiences section.

#### Degree Requirements

#### Credits

Courses required for the Option are shown in boldface.

BI 1110	<b>Biological Science I (TECO)</b>	4
BI 1120	<b>Biological Science II</b>	4
Zoology Elective - complete one of the following:		4
BI 2030	<b>Invertebrate Zoology</b>	
BI 2040	<b>Vertebrate Zoology</b>	
BI 2070	<b>Botany</b>	4
BI 2110	<b>Human Anatomy and Physiology I</b>	4
BI 2120	<b>Human Anatomy and Physiology II</b>	4
BI 3020	<b>Biochemistry I</b>	4
BI 3040	<b>Microbiology</b>	4
BI 3060	<b>Genetics</b>	4
BI 3130	<b>Evolution</b>	4
BI 3240	<b>Conservation (DICO) (GACO) (INCO)</b>	3
BI 4050	<b>Ecology (QRCO) (WRCO)</b>	4
CH 1050	<b>Laboratory Safety</b>	1

CH 2130	General Chemistry I (QRCO) (TECO)	3
CH 2140	General Chemistry II	3
CH 2230	General Chemistry Laboratory I	1
CH 2240	General Chemistry Laboratory II	1
CH 3310	Organic Chemistry I	3
CH 3330	Organic Chemistry Laboratory I	1
ED 4420	Secondary Student Teaching	12
IS 4360	Cultural Diversity and American Society (DICO) (INCO)	3
NS 2010	Introduction to Science Education	3
NS 4330	Science in the Secondary School	3
PH 2130	Physics I	4
PH 2140	Physics II	4
PS 3190	Development and Understanding (WECO)	3
SE 3090	Introduction to Special Education: Middle and Secondary	3
Mathematics Foundations - complete one of the following:		4
MA 2140	Elementary Functions (MATH)	
MA 2490	Applied Calculus I (MATH)	
MA 2550	Calculus I (MATH)	
<i>General Education:</i>		
EN 1200	Composition	3
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
CTDI	Creative Thought Directions	6
PPDI	Past and Present Directions	6
SSDI	Self and Society Directions	6
Total		123

Student Teaching requires a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50.

## **APPENDIX B:**

### Brief history (as the current ISC understands it) with respect to the 45-Credit Rule.

- Created by the Associate Dean of Instruction (Larry Douglas) 36 academic years ago (1973-74), the IS Program was overseen solely by Dr. Douglas in his various administrative capacities for nearly twenty years before the Executive Council created the IS Council.
- According to Council documents, the October 5, 1977 Faculty Meeting passed the following motion made by the Academic Standards Committee: “a student proposing to earn the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree through the Interdisciplinary Studies program (contract major) must have at least 45 semester hours remaining in his or her degree program to be admitted to the Interdisciplinary program.”
- The 1992-93 Academic year witnessed the Council’s first functioning. Currently it is comprised of five full-time faculty members appointed by the Provost and is aided by a representative of (and selected by) the AVP for Undergraduate Studies. The Council elects its own chair for business purposes. It forwards its actions to the AVP for Undergraduate Studies.
- The 1999 External Reviewer noted the 45-credit rule probably was rooted in “the feeling on the part of some faculty that students select an IDS major to avoid those requirements in the major that they don’t like.” She found nonetheless that Plymouth’s “IDS proposals differed significantly from the majors in the primary discipline.”

- 2002-04, the Council revamped its application booklet to include more significant requirements and a rubric for application essays. Members visited departments to explain the standards to which the Council held applicants.
- The 2006 External Reviewer spent six paragraphs on the 45-credit rule” beginning with “I have some misgivings about this requirement.” His report concluded with seven suggestions, including the charge to reconsider the requirement.
- The 2007 PSU Faculty passed a revised IS program that forces a minimum two-semester structure on the major with IS 2222 offered in Falls and IS 4444 offered in Springs, thus making it impossible for a student bail out at the last minute, as well as allowing a thoughtfully constructed contract and application to be written. The ISC believes the 2007 changes have made it the most academically rigorous and intellectually sound IS major of our comparator schools.
- The 2008-09 Council held many meetings on the subject, including a summer retreat, and found that only two of the seven comparator schools with IS programs had any special notations concerning the major: Western Connecticut State University stipulates that at least half the major must be completed with WCSU credits; Eastern Connecticut State University states that “in no case will an Individualized Major be approved in the final semester of a student’s attendance.” PSU has the only 45-credit rule.
- The 2009-10 Council voted unanimously to request the 45-credit rule be dropped and took it to the Curriculum Committee which approved by a vote of 10-1 (with no abstentions and one absence) on November 20, 2009.

### **Current Safeguards Which Assure Academic/Intellectual Integrity in the IS Program**

- There are two three-credit courses (IS 2222 and IS 4444), the former recommended for Option I students and required for Option II students; the latter required of all IS majors.
- These courses require students to be reflective and thoughtful about: the construction of their respective programs of study, the application potentials of their major, and, more broadly, the nature of “interdisciplinarity.” [For an example, see the assignment for IS 4444 (below) which the Council has adopted as a tool with which to assess the program.]
- Additionally, the Council requires an organized, purposeful, and articulate essay be submitted by the applicant. (See below.)
- Students choosing this major also must find advisors in the disciplines they are combining, thus assuring that experts play a significant role in the construction of the unique major -- each student’s essay is required to be signed by the student’s advisors.
- The members of the Council are full-time faculty from varied disciplines who take their charge seriously and very frequently reject applications so as to improve the proposed major’s academic and/or intellectual integrity; in addition, every student’s contract is ultimately approved or rejected by the Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Studies.

### **How the Current 45-credit Rule Can Hurt Students**

- Many students are faced with taking a 135+ credit major if they declare this IS major “at the wrong time.”

- A Junior who begins to explore the possibilities of an IS major very likely will not have their paperwork submitted before Dec. 1; missing this deadline adds 15 credits to their degree, even though they might develop a sound and rigorous program in December or January (assuming a traditional student's trajectory).
- An early Junior interested in a thematic IS degree would have to wait until s/he could take IS 2222 in the Fall. IS 2222 is where Thematic Option students are supposed to construct their application -- meaning that if they had to wait until the Fall offering of their Senior year, they would face a 150 credit degree.
- Transfer students are allowed to bring 90 credits into their PSU degree – but add the 45 credit rule and they are at 135 credits.
- Some PSU students return to campus after a long absence and wish to refocus their remaining coursework based upon their current field of work; such a student might have left with only their senior year remaining but upon returning they have three full semesters.
- For any student who takes fewer than 15-credits per semester, the rule is significantly burdensome, adding **years** to such a student's path to graduation.
- The current language is unfair in terms of treating students equally across campus.
  - Many students on campus declare their major in their Junior year (and they technically can declare in the semester they graduate) and in fact, most IS majors apply with 30 credits left to take.
  - Many non-IS students declare their major after having taken their Gen Eds and then sampling some of the courses they will use in their major, allowing them to use their sampled "in the major" classes and take new ones in the major; yet IS majors acting the same way are told that while they too can use classes already taken and place them in their major, they will have to take extra electives to meet the 135 (or more) credits needed because of the "45-credit rule."

**IS 4444 Assignment referenced above.**

**The following questions will be assigned as part of the curriculum in IS4444. Each Spring, the ISC will collect these responses from the IS4444 instructor and use them in program assessment.**

- 1) Which disciplines are included in your contract? Explain how the key disciplines in your contract are contributing to your major. What are the methods, skills, and dispositions that each key discipline uses to explore your focus?
- 2) Explain how you came to choose the IS major, including why another major on campus is not appropriate for you. How has your coursework so far contributed to your understanding of "interdisciplinarity"? How do you think your IS degree differs (intellectually/academically) from a degree granted by a single discipline used in your contract – what are its challenges and opportunities?

**Program Statement Questions referenced above.**

**The following is from page 11 of the IS Handbook, revised 11/4/2009**

Guidelines for organizing your essay:

- ✓ A good program statement is a clear and concise essay. It does not include extraneous information and it uses a logical sequencing of ideas in appropriately developed paragraphs. It contains no errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and other areas of proper language. It follows typical formatting: 1" margins and a 10-12 point font size. It should be between 500-1000 words.

- 1) Explore how you arrived at the decision to develop an IS major. What is the main focus of your major? What are the ideas and/or issues that your major will address? Why are other majors on campus not appropriate for addressing these?
- 2) Explain your major. What are the goals and objectives of your major? How do they link with the goals you have for your future, including your career plans?
- 3) Assess the courses included in your contract. For contract courses that you have already completed or in which you are currently enrolled, explain how each course contributed to your major and describe specific assignments or topics that the course covered which are important to your program. For contract courses which you plan to take in the future, explain how the course descriptions tie in with your major. If necessary, you may discuss other undergraduate courses that you have taken or plan to take which are not in your contract, but which contribute to your major program.
- 4) Conclude how you think your experience in the IS program differs or will differ from the experience of completing a major within a single discipline used in your contract? What do you think will be the challenges and opportunities presented by undertaking an interdisciplinary major?

## **APPENDIX C:**

### **ENGLISH, Bachelor of Arts 120 credits**

Through focused study in literature, language, and writing, English majors at Plymouth State University develop the essential skills of critical thinking, cogent analysis, and effective communication. The major explores both canonical and non-canonical texts in British, American, and Global literatures, and introduces students to trends in literary history and to contemporary questions raised by theorists and literary critics. Our renowned writing curriculum helps students develop their own original voices in both imaginative and expository writing. This core curriculum, along with fifteen credits of Advanced Level (3000/4000) study in EN courses of the student's choosing, comprises the standard English Major and prepares students well for a variety of life paths. Students who are seeking certification as English teachers must declare and follow the Teacher Certification Option. Students who elect to focus their Advanced Level study exclusively in Writing may declare a Writing Option; those who elect to focus their Advanced Level study exclusively in Literature & Film courses may declare a Literature and Film option.

<b>Degree Requirements</b>	<b>Credits</b>
EN 2500 Studies in English (WRCO )	3
EN 2700 Creative Writing	3
LL 2000 Introduction to Language and Linguistics (QRCO )	3
EN 3690 Critical Theory	3
EN English electives above 3000	15
Introductory Course—complete one of the following:	3
E N 1750 Popular Fiction	
E N 2250 Identity and Difference in American Literature (DICO)	
E N 2350 Decades in Literature	

E N 2410 Shakespeare's (St)age	
E N 2450 Prize Winners	
E N 2610 Introduction to Film	
Currents--complete four of the following, including one each of American, British, and Global:	12
E N 3500 Currents in Global Literature	
E N 3610 Currents in British Literature I	
E N 3620 Currents in British Literature II	
E N 3710 Currents in American Literature I (DICO )	
E N 3720 Currents in American Literature II (DICO )	
Technology in the Discipline Connection--complete one of the following:	3
EN 3090 Technical Communication (TECO)	
EN 3670 Journalism (TECO)	
<i>General Education:</i>	
EN 1200 Composition	3
IS 1111 T he First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
MA Mathematics Foundations	3
CTDI Creative Thought Directions	6
PPDI Past and Present Directions	6
SIDI Scientific Inquiry Directions	6-8
SSDI Self and Society Directions	6
INCO Integration Connection	3
WECO Wellness Connection	3
Foreign Language (GACO )	8
Electives	28-26
	<b>Total 120</b>

## APPENDIX D:

# Theatre History and Literature Option

120 credits

The Theatre History and Literature Option provides students with an aptitude for scholarship and criticism, a coherent program of study which will prepare them for a career in the literary/critical areas of theatre or for further study at the graduate level. The development of the student scholar/critic within the context of the greater liberal arts framework is emphasized. Students wishing to declare this Option may do so after successfully interviewing with the Theatre faculty

### Degree Requirements

### Credits

Courses required for the Option are shown in boldface.

TH 1600	Introduction to Theatre	3
<b>TH 1650</b>	<b>Practicum in Production (two enrollments = 2 credits)</b>	2
TH 2100	Technology for Theatre Professionals (TECO)	3
TH 2500	Stagecraft Fundamentals (QRCO)	3
TH 2540	Introduction to Theatre Design	3
TH 2600	Fundamentals of Costume Construction and Design	3
TH 2720	Acting I	3
TH 3210	Script Analysis	3
<b>TH 3670</b>	<b>Advanced Practicum in Production</b>	3
<b>TH 3930</b>	<b>American Drama (DICO) (WRCO)</b>	3
<b>TH 4510</b>	<b>Theatre History I</b>	3
<b>TH 4520</b>	<b>Theatre History II</b>	3
TH 4610	Directing for the Stage (INCO)	3
<b>Literature Electives - complete 12 credits:</b>		12

# Theatre History and Literature Option

120 credits

TH 2230	American Musical Theatre (DICO) (WRCO)
TH 2960	World Drama
TH 3410	Dramatic Literature and Criticism (Topics)
EN 3280	Drama into Film

## General Education:

EN 1200	Composition	3
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
MA	Mathematics Foundations	3
PPDI	Past and Present Directions	6
SIDI	Scientific Inquiry Directions	6-8
SSDI	Self and Society Directions	6
WECO	Wellness Connection	3
<i>Foreign Language (GACO)</i>		8
<i>Electives</i>		32-30

The *foreign language* requirement for all BA degrees calls for 0-8 credits: one year of one language (6-8 credits); **or** one 3000/4000 level world language course (3 credits); **or** being a native speaker of a language other than English (zero credit).

The subjects covered in Topics courses vary from semester to semester. Course may be repeated as long as topic covered is different.

*\*All course information is from the 2009-2010 Catalog.*

## APPENDIX E: BS in Sport Management

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Sport Management will add a new major to the current business program. Unlike the current business majors, this will be a joint program with Health and Human Performance (HHP). The interdisciplinary nature of the degree will enable our students to have a solid foundation in required business skills and knowledge of the sports industry, and will prepare them for positions in health/recreation facilities, sports sales, promotion, management and sports marketing.

The Sport Management program aligns with Plymouth State University's mission by offering a high quality program that will meet the needs of students in the state and region. The degree in sports management has consistently been the number one requested "major" of our Admissions office (of programs we do not currently offer). Currently, students wishing to pursue a BS degree in Sport Management or related major enroll in our Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) degree program and develop a proposal for an IS degree which combines HHP and Business courses.

The Sport Management program will connect well with the ALLWell Center and its mission to provide ongoing wellness and activities that support active living to the members of our community. The ALLWell Center will provide state of the art facilities, research and teaching laboratories, wellness and exercise facilities. Students in this program will have numerous opportunities to participate in outreach, service activities and internships through partnerships with area businesses and community organizations.

Street and Smith's *Sports Business Journal* states that, "the sports business industry is one of the largest and fastest growing industries in the United States." A 2008 survey of the size of the industry listed it at \$213 billion. They point to increased job opportunities in the field in the coming decades.

The program's objective is to develop an interdisciplinary degree program that provides experience and knowledge in business law, event management, health/fitness/recreation organization and administration, and marketing as they relate to the field of sport management.

**Effective 2010-11 Catalog:**

**SPORTS MANAGEMENT**, Bachelor of Science 120 credits  
 This program is jointly offered by the College of Business Administration and the Health and Human Performance Department.

***Degree Requirements***

***Credits***

BU 1100	Business Computer Applications (TECO)	3
BU 1150	Financial Accounting	4
BU 2260	Management Accounting	4

***BU 2290 Organizational Communications (WRCO) 3***

BU 2450	Principles of Marketing	3
BU 2480	Business Law	3
BU 3210	Financial Management	3

***BU 3240 Information Technology 3***

BU 3300	Operations Management	3
BU 3420	Organizational Behavior (DICO)	3
BU 3430	Sports Law	3
BU 3450	Sports Marketing	3

***BU 4220 Administrative Policy (INCO) 3***

CC 2200	Introduction to Sports Management	3
CC 3300	Sports Facilities Management	3
CC 3670	Organization and Administration of Physical Education and Athletics	3
CC 3780	Sport in Society	3

Group A - complete one of the following: 3-4

CC 3881	Sports Management Practicum	
CC 4881	Sports Management Internship	

EC 2550	Macroeconomics (GACO)	3
EC 2560	Microeconomics	3

Mathematics Foundations – complete one of the following: 3

MA 2200	Finite Mathematics	
MA 2490	Applied Calculus I	
MA 2550	Calculus I	

Quantitative Reasoning in the Discipline Connection - complete one of the following: 3

BU 2240	Business Statistics (QRCO)	
MA 2300	Statistics I (QRCO)	

*General Education:*

EN 1200	Composition	3
IS 1111	The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
CTDI	Creative Thought Directions	6

PPDI	Past and Present Directions	6
SIDI	Scientific Inquiry Directions	6-8
<i>SSDI</i>	<i>Self and Society Directions</i>	6
WECO	Wellness Connection	3
<i>Electives</i>		<u>19-16</u>
Total		120

Approved December 2, 2009 by the PSU Faculty.

Pending approval of SAPC and the Board of Trustees.