

FCAS CC Meeting Minutes– September 9, 2015

GHH Room 300, 2-3:30PM.

Present: Christine Fagan, Erin Tooley, Adria Updike, Lauren Rossi, Renee Soto, Kate Mele, June Speakman

Chair LR announced the meeting would end earlier than scheduled at 2:45 or so to accommodate those members who wished to attend the State of the University address.

1. Committee Business
 - a. Minutes of May 7, 2015
<http://www.rwu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/curriculum-process/agendas-minutes>
Motion to approve: AU, ET 6-0-0
 - b. Meeting dates for Fall 2015 semester.
 - a. September 9 and 23
 - b. October 14 and 28
 - c. November 11
 - d. December 9
 - c. State of the University attendance
2. Course and Program Petitions

Those petitions of (A) and (B) below were discussed with no motions made at last FCAS CC meeting.

Dean Robert Eisinger greeted the committee and indicated he would look into supplying committee members with physical copies of the RWU Catalog for 2015-2016, as the university seems to have no plans to distribute the physical catalog to faculty.

A. Communication & Media Studies

Program changes:

Minor Program Change: COMM B.A. in Communication & Media Studies (renamed from Global), BA BA 2/21/2015

Anjali Ram (Communication & Media Studies) and Dean Eisinger joined the committee in the conversation regarding the petition: 'Required levels of academic achievement include a B average in all required Communication (COMM) courses.'

Discussion began with the comparison with other programs with gateway courses and/ or maintenance benchmarks. The Graphic Design Program which has a degree requirement "Required levels of academic achievement include a B average in all required graphic design courses." and "Application to the major may happen with a portfolio after satisfactory completing foundation courses- DSGN 100 and DSGN 110- with at least a B-." Questions remained as to how specifically the graphic design program enforces the grade maintenance requirement (by semester/ year). The Creative Writing Program which has a gateway policy, "B- or higher in CW 210 and CW220, on the basis of portfolio, or by recommendation of one or more full-time creative writing faculty members" for students who do not complete an application as part of admission to the university. (Other programs may have gateway benchmarks as well.)

Conversation included the meaning of "Required levels of academic achievement include a B average in all required graphic design/comm & media studies courses"—does "all" imply "each"?

Concerns of the committee focused on

- students who may not be able to maintain the B average, thus not meeting graduation requirements *in the major*, although the students have met the *university* requirements for graduation
- the question of at which point in her time at RWU a student would need to change majors and still graduate on time
- benchmarks set early on in the major program (gateway model) aid advising of student to retain current or switch programs while achieving some of the described goals of the petition
- the student who is energized and enthusiastic and committed to her education but is not an A or B student—a program policy would in effect decide for the student that she cannot pursue the major she is most interested in and committed to following
- the atmosphere among colleagues if programs began dismissing students from majors based on their grades
- how many students would actually be affected by these guidelines—a suggestion was made to consult IR.

Prof. Ram left the meeting planning to revise the proposal and with the understanding that a gateway model would be more acceptable to the FCASCC.

Before his departure, the dean remarked that he would save the day at some point this semester with coffee and donuts for all on the FCASCC.

The committee once again discussed the options we have/do not have within curriculum regarding the option to “table”. Decided to select the “action”: “request Change” and in the comments box, to indicate the proposal was tabled, followed by content specific to the proposal.

Motion to TABLE KM and ET (6-0-0)

B. Psychology, BA

Discussion to return to Psychology at next FCASCC meeting, due to early adjournment for State of the University

LR will send pending PSYCH minor course changes as e-ballot

RS asked if FCASCC is charged with MA programs—affirmative. The Graduate Curriculum program that had been in place is now disbanded.

Discussion of upcoming FCAS CC year—the Dean recommended to department chairs that due to the many curriculum petitions, the Chairs submit curriculum proposals by the end of the fall semester.

Discussion that divisional representatives within FCAS can be helpful in shepherding proposals through the committee; perhaps we might initiate this kind of relationship with our colleagues. The idea is that early this semester, each member of the FCASCC will send messages to our divisional colleagues indicating our support of them as they prepare proposals for the FCASCC, encouraging them to meet with us prior to submitting the proposals to help assure passage through the process. It is the general opinion of the FCASCC that too many proposals are getting held up due to missing/inaccurate information, wording, etc. JS proposed the FCASCC members host workshops for petitioners/potential petitioners.

Motion To Adjourn 2:50 LR AU