

General Education Curriculum and Planning Committee

Minutes ~ April 29, 2015

Attending:

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Bender, Paul (WTNG), Chair | Hall, Michael (SJS) | Koelle, Ruth (Math) | Pasquarelli, Susan (SED) | Updike, Adria (CAS-MNS) |
| Bosco, Sue (At-Large) | Hawkes, Catherine (CAS-HPA) | McKenzie, Brett (GSB) | Ruocco, Tony (SECCM) Absent | |
| Fenske, Gail (AAHP) | Jacobs, Jason (ex officio) | McMullen, Sue (Lib) | Spritz, Becky (CAS-SS) | |

Meeting called to order at 3:38 p.m.

Minutes: C. Hawkes.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting, Bender; Bosco, second.

Vote: 9 to approve, 0 opposed. Minutes were approved.

Old Business

3. CORE Catalog Cleanup (Jacobs)

Jacobs noted it is probably too late for any more changes to be made to copy for 2015-16 catalog.

New Business

1. Cyber Security CORE Concentration Proposal (Bender)

Discussion: This proposal was passed by the Senate Curriculum Committee and the Senate without Core Curriculum Committee approval. (They may have thought it had been approved by the CCC.)

Concerns were discussed regarding whether a non-liberal arts discipline could offer a Core Concentration. It was noted that rules regarding the CC have been idiosyncratic and unevenly applied in the past. Current catalog says CC should be in a liberal arts discipline. NEASC requires 40 credits based on a "balanced understanding of the liberal arts."

Current CC's may not always be cohesive or achieve what we want. Compare this one with Criminal Justice: It may be possible to make an argument for a social scientific basis for Criminal Justice. Cyber Security will never be a liberal art, but perhaps it could be a part of general education if revised in terms of outcomes. Courses would have to be redesigned/reimagined.

We don't want to ask Doug White to spend a lot of time revising proposal until we have some new guidelines in place. Should we set ourselves a deadline for revisions so we can give proposers a date? (Has to be approved by FSCC. Important for FSCC to be aware of what we're doing.)

Vote: 1 to approve, 8 opposed. Proposal was not approved.

Feedback to Doug White: compare with Justice Studies. Bender will email White, Jacobs, Provost, Registrar with this decision.

2. Criminal Justice CORE Concentration Proposal (Bender)

Discussion: Why this selection and sequence of courses? Is this a coherent package? Is it the fault of the form that there is no justification for inclusion of each course? (This was not as necessary in the past, as all proposals were in the liberal arts.) We need to provide training and assistance in using Curricunet for CC proposals.

Proposals that fall outside traditional boundaries start a new conversation. How technical are the two elective course possibilities? A research methods course would link this to the social sciences. (Unfair expectation – Psychology CC does not require this.) Rationale sets up intention not to be liberal arts (“access between liberal arts and professional studies”). Can faculty articulate the importance of applying social science methodology in criminal justice? We can ask them to make intention with respect to liberal arts more clear.

It isn't clear to others what we're looking for; we need to be better at communicating that.

- ~ change form in Curricunet to fit our needs
- ~ provide specific guidelines for proposers

Motion to table, Pasquarelli; second, Bosco.

Vote: 9 to approve, 0 opposed. Proposal was tabled.

3. CORE Concentration Discussion (Hawkes)

CC subcommittee met on 4/16/15. Hawkes presented analysis of CC restrictions.

| Restrictions by major | FCAS | Professional Schools | Total |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Majors with no restrictions | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Majors with one restriction | 6 | 13 | 19 |
| Majors with two restrictions | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Majors with three or more restrictions | 13 | 0 | 13 |

| CC's with the most restrictions | Number of majors that restrict this CC | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------|
| | <i>FCAS Majors</i> | <i>Prof. School Majors</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Computer Science | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Economics | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Chemistry | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Environmental Science | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Marine Biology | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| SEA Semester | 5 | 0 | 5 |

Jacobs suggested we look at NEASC idea of "balance."

Infuse outcomes throughout the curriculum. (Focus on underpinnings of course.)

General education now dwindles over the course of four years.

Faculty are disappointed with capstone level performance.

Individualized minor ("dynamite" the CC); advising challenge; could be an option, not a requirement.

~ Cons: CC's deliver enrollments to departments/programs

~ We already have 43 credits (cf. NEASC requires 40); blocks road to FYS's, etc.

~ Pros: In line with what President has requested

(Discussion will continue.)

4. Min Zhou CISS Proposal: "Ambiguous Other: Looking at the West as It Looks East" (Bender)

General note on proposals: Unclear how these will come to us. Bender would like relevant unit to see proposal first. (CISS Unit Committee worked with Min and has approved this proposal.)

Discussion: how will topics fill the semester? Topics are news-related rather than scholarly. Should there be some scholarly foundation? (Concerns re difficulty of doing scholarly reading for our students – degree to which we're preparing our students to approach new material with curiosity. How to incorporate that in the 100-level courses. 100-levels should be interesting and challenging; not "just for freshmen." Causes us to lose good students who are looking for a challenge.)

This course is about how we feel about "the other" – very appropriate.

Use of term "the other" – is Asia really "the other"?

Course description – may require prior knowledge.

Motion to approve, Bender; second, Pasquarelli.

Vote: 8 to approve, 0 to oppose. Proposal was approved.

Paul will be in contact regarding a possible meeting in May.

Adjourned 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Hawkes