

Minutes
Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee Meeting
04/19/02

Members Present: Beth Boquet, Bob Epstein, AVP Orin Grossman (ex-officio), Frank Hannafey, April Hill, Laura McSweeney, Shelley Phelan (Chair), Susan Rakowitz, Vin Rosivach, Kurt Schlichting, Jim Simon, Dean Timothy Snyder (ex-officio)

Guest: Dr. Joy Gordon, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Legal Studies Program

Approval of Minutes: Rosivach moves to approve minutes. McSweeney seconds. Minutes are approved unanimously with no discussion.

Agenda Item #1: Legal Studies

Phelan begins by asking, “What is this committee’s role?”

Rakowitz clarifies that the program is defunct but the director is *not* resigning; Gordon replies that a scaled-down version of the program will be operating until all who have taken LS 10 have completed the minor.

Hill brings up the issue of resources, stating that there seem to be two related but distinct problems: (1) staffing of LS 10 sections and (2) directing the program.

- Gordon explains why LS 10 staffing is the crux of the problem and the foundation of the program
- In response to a question from Phelan, Gordon assesses the amount of work necessary to establish and supervise internships as well as to administer the program’s other events (e.g. conferences): 10-15 hours per week.
- Gordon also recounts barriers to external funding of program. Specifically, she has been told that she is not allowed to fund-raise directly for the program at this time.

Simon and Schlichting both ask about a resignation and replacement option.

- Gordon responds that the advisory board met last Spring, at which point no one was interested in assuming these responsibilities. The board and the administration were advised that failure to find either additional monies or a replacement would result in the closure of the program.
- Schlichting wonders whether this might have changed in the intervening year and asks Gordon whether she would have any objections to an interested party assuming the directorship at this time. Gordon states that she would have no objections.

- Schlichting then adds that, if no one is found to direct the program, he will request formal notification to this committee to begin procedures to close the program.

Professor Gordon leaves the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and discussion continues.

Some discussion of fund-raising ensues, but Rosivach suggests this issue stands outside this committee's province. Fund-raising is a long-term solution, and we need a short-term solution.

Schlichting makes the following motion: the A&S CC asks the Dean to contact qualified faculty members who might be interested in assuming the role of Director of Legal Studies. Hill seconds, stating that it seems important to make this opportunity formally available to people.

Rakowitz emphasizes that this program was not originally designed as a pre-law minor. Scaling down the program might mean a return to its original conception.

- AVP Grossman agrees, adding that he looked at models from other schools which made connections between existing offerings (Law and Society, etc.).
- Rosivach suggests that original paperwork might be helpful as Dean Snyder begins to talk with interested faculty.

Hannafey wonders whether we might be able to clarify what is going on for existing students.

- Rosivach believes there is nothing to tell students at this time, since we have no new director.
- Dean Snyder agrees, suggesting that we wait until we know what shape the program will take.

After a brief discussion, the committee moves to a vote on the motion. The vote is unanimous. A sub-committee is formed to work with the Dean to identify interested faculty. Sub-committee members are Schlichting, Epstein, and Rosivach.

Rosivach makes a follow-up motion: If the program in legal studies continues in a different form, the new form must be reviewed by this committee. Schlichting seconds. The vote is unanimous.

Agenda Item #2: Intermediate Spanish for Health Care Professionals

It has come to the attention of the committee that this course never came before us for review, nor is it running on Dean's approval. According to the description, the course seems to be a modified version of intermediate Spanish.

- Rakowitz notes that the course would presumably convert to a standard section of intermediate Spanish if we say no to the course.
- The committee decides to ask for paperwork, departmental discussion, etc. and consider it at our next meeting.

Agenda Item #3: Report from the Subcommittee on Adjunct Participation in the Core

Schlichting observes that previous surveys have counted the number of courses taught by adjuncts in the core. Instead, this subcommittee decided to take the perspective of the student. Using a sample of 142 students (all members of the class of 2005) for one semester, the committee tallied the number of adjuncts for each student.

- 66.3% have 1 or 2 adjuncts
- Schlichting suggests that the adjunct situation has worsened in part due to enrollment caps in English and Foreign Languages
- Rosivach points out that the stats the university currently relies on (specifically, number of adjuncts per FTE) are misleading; those statistics do not accurately represent the full-time faculty/student ration problem

Boquet asks whether this is an issue the retention committee is considering. Rakowitz replies that she believes that committee is no longer meeting

Hannafey asks how Fairfield compares to comparable schools. Schlichting suggests that this is part of the ongoing work of the subcommittee. The subcommittee is commended for its work up to this point and is asked to report again at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourns at a time not recorded by the secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Boquet