

Present: Cecelia Bucki, Ed Dew, Jesús Escobar, David McFadden, Laura McSweeney (Chair), Lynne Porter, Susan Rakowitz, Kurt Schlichting, Jim Simon.

Absent: Lisa Newton, who sent written comments on the courses to be discussed. Her comments have been incorporated into these minutes.

- I. Porter was appointed Secretary for the meeting, with the understanding that Rakowitz would take notes, when needed, during extensive discussion of courses.
- II. Minutes of Sept. 16, 2003 meeting were approved with the following changes: Jesús Escobar is a member of VPA not Fine Arts, his first name has an accent, and Lynne Porter's name is spelled incorrectly.

III. New Business:

A. The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program has approved the inclusion of AH 242, The Arts of Spain and Its World 1474-1700, into its curriculum. The Chair of ASCC has received the minutes of the Program meeting.

B. New Course Proposals

1. New Course Proposal: EN 347, African Fiction 1980 to Present (Garvey)

Rakowitz made a motion to approve the course. Newton noted the worth of the course, but asked do we need more English courses? She also noted that the course has already been accepted as a US Diversity course. Bucki raised a question about the course number—what is the difference between a 200 and a 300 level English class? Should the English Department designate which classes are core and which are for majors? McFadden commented that English is looking at the 200/300 level course distinctions, and that is not an issue for this committee. Simon asked if someone took the old class, EN 344, can they take this new class or would the content overlap? Rakowitz pointed out that if EN 344 has not been offered for several years that is not a problem. Bucki pointed out that 1980 was the end of the class the last time it was taught, so that should not be an issue. McSweeney noted that the course has not gone yet through the process with the Black Studies Program, and that it clearly should. The course passed with unanimous approval, with the note to check if any new students have already had the material in EN 344.

2. New Course Proposal: BI 366, Ornithology (Osier)

Bucki made a motion to approve the course. Newton noted that the course will be a great addition to Environmental Science and Environmental Studies minors. She also asked of the web might be an asset, since it takes less time than an interlibrary loan. Simon pointed out that the syllabus has no mention of an attendance policy or of requirements for class participation, and both should be addressed. Escobar brought up the issue of requiring class trips. After discussion, it was agreed that if a required trip happens during regularly scheduled lab or class time, this would not be a problem. Rakowitz pointed out that there is no answer to 9b, and the Biology Department has not dealt with

this issue in the meeting. McFadden amended the motion, requesting conditional approval of course, based on an appropriate response to 9b being presented to the ASCC Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Course Proposal: FM 120, Introductory Screenwriting for Short and Feature-Length Films (McGregor)

Newton commented that the course sounds like it belongs in the English Department and Dew agreed. Newton also commented that the course does not sound like a liberal arts course. Dew questioned how this course is different from existing courses. Bucki pointed out that VPA dealt with this in their meeting, and we must trust that they know this course is appropriate and needed. Bucki questioned if New Media Film, Radio, Television Program is developing a major. Porter explained that with the recent hire of McGregor, New Media Film is indeed in the process of writing a major to supplement the current minor. Bucki made the motion to approve the course. Escobar questioned Newton's comment that the course did not fit into a liberal arts school. No one understood or agreed with Newton's comment. Dew pointed out that 9b has been answered. McFadden approved of the manner in which the VPA Department mentored the development of this new course. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Course Proposal: AH 115, The Archeology of Athens (Schwab)

McSweeney handed out several addenda: a new page one for the syllabus, a letter of approval from the Director of Classical Studies, and a reordering of information for points 7-10. Newton praised the course, noting that it draws on Schwab's new research and is timely since Athenian archeology is going through a fascinating period of development. She noted that the course will complement numerous courses at Fairfield, since so many touch on Athens. McFadden was confused about her answer for 9b, but discussion made Schwab's course rotation clear. Schlichting questioned whether this course should be a 200 level course, as it has a prerequisite. After much discussion, Escobar stated that the course number of AH 115 is consistent with the current Art History numbering system, but that the Art History Program is in the process of reviewing the course numbering system. McFadden pointed out the inconsistency between BCE/CE and BC/AD designations in the course description in the syllabus. Bucki made the motion to approve the course, and it passed unanimously.

5. New Course Proposal: AY 163, Culture and Inequality (Crawford)

McSweeney handed out an addendum: the grading criteria for the course. Newton praised the course for its timely, fascinating topic, however, she expressed concern about the generality of the subject and focus. She also noted that Crawford should consider applying for both US Diversity and World Diversity designations. Bucki questioned why the course is a 100 level seminar with no prerequisites. Seminars are typically upper level courses. Schlichting stated that the Sociology and Anthropology Department is in the process of reviewing the course numbers. McFadden pointed out that there is no proper syllabus, and the proposal is not properly prepared to be in this committee. Simon notes that it will be offered Spring 2004, so it has to be in this committee for inclusion on

the S-04 course booklet. McSweeney pointed out that with the new hire of an anthropologist, he needs to be writing the courses that he will be teaching. Schlichting agreed, noting that the Asian anthropology courses on the books are not within Crawford's field. Escobar suggested that we give the benefit of the doubt and check the online syllabus to see if there is a course outline that was simply not printed. McFadden suggested that we put this discussion off to the next ASCC meeting in order to give Crawford time to develop the syllabus. It was pointed out again that the class will be offered in Spring 2004, so it needs to be approved now. McFadden suggested that we offer conditional approval, requesting a full course outline, and addressing the demanding nature of this 100 level course. Rakowitz left to see if the outline is online. Discussion on this course was tabled until Rakowitz' return.

6. New Course Proposal: AY 152, Islamic Cultures and Societies (Crawford)

McFadden commented that this is a good, much needed course. Dew praised the completeness of the syllabus and proposal. McSweeney noted that since the course seems to be a good candidate, she will remind Crawford to send it through both the World Diversity Committee and International Studies. Simon pointed out that the syllabus gives conflicting information about the final exam—is it a paper or an exam? He asked that this be clarified in the syllabus. Concern was raised about the numerous readings, but it is clear that the Sociology and Anthropology Department dealt with this in their discussion of the course. Escobar made the motion to approve, on the condition that the final exam be clarified in the syllabus. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Continued discussion of AY 163, Culture and Inequality  
Meanwhile, back at the ranch. . .

Rakowitz returned with printouts from the AY 163 website. The course outline is indeed online, and she distributed it. Bucki raised the issue of a turbo, mentioning that she thought turbos should be for upper level courses only. Schlichting said that in an anthropology sequence, this course is typically a lower level, more general course. He supposed that it is now taught as a turbo because the class was scheduled for a new professor, around the other classes already offered in the department. The class does not need to be a turbo. Rakowitz commented that the course seems reasonable, and that the department has done its work. Schlichting stated again that the department is revisiting the issue of course numbering. Simon pointed out that the catalog description is forbidding, effectively ensuring that no freshmen would want to take the course. Bucki made a motion to approve the course. Escobar asked that the issue of the course number be included in the ASCC chair's letter to the department. McFadden asked if the course description needed to be revised. McSweeney pointed out that the department had obviously reviewed the material, and therefore they have dealt with this issue. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Course Proposal: RS 105, Introduction to Islam (Lahurd)

Rakowitz gave Porter a reprieve with the minute-taking. Newton noted that this is an excellent, much needed class. Bucki said that it was great

that the RS department had found an instructor for this course and that it should be a regular offering. McFadden agreed that it should be a good course and pointed out that he was familiar with and liked the text. Newton noted that the syllabus probably needs development in terms of objectives and the ways in which they will be achieved. Simon moved to accept the course, Dew seconded, and the course was accepted unanimously.

8. New Course Proposal: RS 277, From Creation to the Flood: The Ancient Near Eastern Background of the Hebrew Bible (Slanski)

Both Porter and Rakowitz took minutes.

Newton noted that this is a wonderful course, and good for our students; it will put our students in contact with scholarship in a time and place totally unfamiliar to them. Newton also requested that syllabi list course objectives. Bucki pointed out that this 200 level course has no prerequisites, and don't all 200 level religion courses need RS 10 as a prerequisite? Rakowitz said that there is no requirement that RS 10 come first, even though we all assume that it is a prerequisite for all other RS courses. McFadden pointed out that the catalog does not specifically state this, but that it should. The chair was directed to ask the department whether RS 10 is a prerequisite for all RS courses and, if so, to clarify that point in the catalog. Escobar noted that Slanski is teaching a course in VPA and that she is doing a great job. McSweeney questioned whether this should be a special topics class. The question of whether we were being asked to give approval for a regular catalog course, or is this a one time only deal. This is not clear. Escobar asked why Dean's Approval had been removed from the process and was told that Snyder put a stop to it. Bucki made the motion to approve the course with the prerequisite of RS 10. Schlichting pointed out that this is a great reason to use an adjunct. Motion passed unanimously.

9. New Course Proposal: HI 273, History and Culture of Central and Eastern Europe Since 1945 (McFadden)

Both Porter and Rakowitz took minutes.

McFadden explained that this course was offered once under the number RES 160, but he now wants to try it under this number. As Dean's Approval does not exist, he is asking the committee for approval to run the course for one semester. He is unsure if he wants this to become a regular course. There was a discussion of whether the committee can give a one-time approval. We agreed that we would vote regarding standard approval, but the department could choose to withhold the course listing from the catalog. McSweeney asked if the course would ever be listed as RES 160, and was told no, this is the new number and designation. Newton noted that the title of the class is different on several pages. Simon made the motion to approve; Schlichting seconded and the course was accepted unanimously.

10. New Course Proposal: HI 219, Italy from the Renaissance to Revolution (Court)

Porter took over solo minute-taking, with thanks to Rakowitz.

McSweeney passed out an addendum: a letter of approval from Italian Studies. McFadden said that the History Department wants to add the

course to their full listing, even though it will have to be taught by an adjunct for now. Newton noted that this course should be required for all students who study in Florence. She also noted the absence of Verdi. Escobar pointed out that the catalog description is too long and should be re-written by the department to generalize and streamline it into the 100 word limit of the catalog. Simon made the motion to approve, and it passed unanimously.

11. New Course Proposal: HI 315, Ireland Since the Famine, (Abbott)  
McSweeney noted that the proposal does have a letter from the Irish Studies Program. Newton praised the complete syllabus, calling it a model for all of us. She also called it a fascinating course. Escobar noted that this document, while extremely complete, was also long, and asked if we can have future course proposals xeroxed double-sided. McSweeney agreed, and will do so in the future. Dew made the motion to approve, and it passed unanimously.

12. New Course Proposal: PS 122 and 122L, Optics and Optics Laboratory (Brienza)  
Rakowitz clarified that this is the course that Physics wanted to offer this fall on last minute Dean's Approval, and was turned down by Snyder. Escobar noted vague student evaluation statements concerning attendance, participation and grading percentages. McFadden noted that this seems like a dumbing-down of an existing course for the sake of the engineering students. If the engineers need Optics, why don't they take the more advanced PS 222 course? McSweeney pointed out that the engineers do not have the math background to handle PS 222. Newton asked why the final notebook is optional, since the class is for less qualified students who probably need some way of getting their physics education in systematic form that the instructor can check. Newton also noted that the proposal listed no prerequisites, while the syllabus does list a prerequisite. Bucki asked if Physics majors could take this class, and McSweeney noted that the department minutes specifically state that they cannot. This will not be a core class, but that all students could take it. Bucki asked if the catalog could identify this as a course for engineers, and not the core. She asked if the course would be more clear if it were titled Optics for Engineers. Simon made the motion to approve with the condition that there be a clarification of the grading. Schlichting seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

McSweeney was complimented for keeping the meeting moving efficiently, and the meeting adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Porter