

MINUTES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CURRICULUM COMMITTEE, 11/11/03
(Approved 12/09/03)

Members present: McSweeney (chair), Simon, Bucki, McFadden, Rakowitz, Escobar, Newton, Porter, Dew, Snyder

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes. The minutes of the 10/14/03 meeting were approved. Discussion reverted to the Individualized Major language from last meeting. Prof. McFadden said he hoped any students currently enrolled in an Individualized Major would be grandfathered if they had declared two majors. Prof. Rakowitz said that was her understanding.

2. Chair McSweeney referenced an e-mail from former committee member Rosivach, who noted that the Academic Council would not have to approve the college curriculum committee's action on Individualized Major since it was solely a college issue.

3. The committee considered approval of Prof. Carolan's course IT262 Rome in the Cultural Imagination. Chair McSweeney noted the professor had addressed several concerns raised by the committee such as the need for a shorter catalog description, clarifications to the syllabus and an improved Section 9B on how often the course will be taught.

Prof. McFadden said there was a tradition of such courses being taught in English as literature in translation. He noted Modern Languages was OK with it. Prof. Bucki said the literature in translation was an issue of which the committee should keep track; Prof. Dew noted it could cut into English Department courses taught in translation.

The committee voted unanimously, except for one abstention, to approve the course.

4. Prof. McSweeney noted a concern of Prof. Crabtree, chair of Communication Department, regarding development of New Media sequence in the Visual and Performing Arts department, especially with the arrival of Prof. McGregor as a member of VPA. Prof. Crabtree would like to see syllabi from any new courses in that sequence. Committee members suggested closer coordination between Comm and VPA in this area. Prof. McFadden said there are not enough faculty in Comm, so they must look elsewhere.

5. Chair McSweeney opened discussion on the committee's role in oversight of courses that count toward interdisciplinary programs. Prof. Rakowitz said that if a course – existing or new -- were cross-listed in the catalog, the college curriculum committee would request minutes from all affected departments and needed to approve such a move. She asked if a course were simply cross-counted as being approved for credit in a second department, should the college curriculum committee also be notified. Currently it is not.

Prof. Bucki said some departments simply contact the registrar and tell that office which courses in other departments also can count for their major. Prof. McFadden said the

director of American Studies simply picks which courses in other departments can satisfy his interdisciplinary program. Prof. Newton stated that this is also how she determines the courses for her program. Prof. McFadden noted there had not been any recent meeting of American Studies faculty. Prof. Rakowitz said the advisory boards to these programs need to meet at least annually. Dean Snyder noted that while he does get annual reports from these programs, he does not see any evidence of minutes. The dean examined the college's governing document and reported that the chair of each program was supposed to meet with faculty at least three times a semester. Prof. Rakowitz said that when an interdisciplinary program is first proposed, all relevant courses are examined by the college curriculum committee. But when courses are later added, there is no oversight (unless a course is listed under two different names and numbers, in which case it is reviewed).

Prof. Rakowitz moved that all directors of programs in the college inform the college curriculum committee when they add to their established list of approved courses for their curriculum or remove any courses. Prof. McFadden seconded. He clarified this pertained to cross-counted courses; if a current course is to be cross-listed by a second department, that second department must notify the college curriculum committee and submit minutes to show the department had fully considered it.

The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Prof. Rakowitz moved to adjourn; Prof. Newton seconded. Motion was approved.

Submitted by Prof. Simon