

## APPROVED MINUTES

### College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee September 21, 2004

Attending: Professors McFadden, Dew, Simon, Garvey, Newton, Bucki, Porter (Chair); Dean T. Snyder, and Professors Sergent and Dukkipati from the School of Engineering.

Chair Porter Called the committee together at 3:35 p.m.

1. Professor McFadden was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of April 13, 2004 (previously distributed). Prof. Newton moved approval, seconded by Prof. Simon. Approved unanimously.

At an organizational meeting of the Committee of September 14 (at the end of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meeting) Professor Lynne Porter of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts was unanimously elected chair, and the committee thanked Professor Cecelia Bucki for her excellent service over the past year.

Questions were raised concerning Professors Sergent and Dukkipati's attendance at the meeting. The two professors from the School of Engineering were elected to vacant natural Science/Mathematics/Engineering slots on the UCC at General Faculty elections last May and were included in the listing of members of the A&S CC. Several professors from the College of Arts and Sciences noted that all members of the A&S CC must be faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, according to the College governance document. After further discussion, the Committee warmly thanked professors Sergent and Dukkipati for their willingness to read course proposals and to attend this meeting, but excused them from further attendance and consideration of Arts and Science course proposals. The Chair and the Dean will clarify with the Secretary of the General Faculty Prof. Mulvey the issue of Natural Sciences and Math representation on the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

2. New business

a. Election of A&SCC representative to the Individually Designed Major Committee of the College.

The Committee discussed the individually Designed major., which for some reason was omitted from the University catalog for 2004-2005. Associate Dean Ray Poincelot is the point person in the Dean's office on this issue, and works with a small committee to consider proposals from students for self-designed majors. When the question was raised as to why it was not in the catalog, apparently a decision was made not to publicize it strongly so not to encourage students. Several members of the A&SCC felt that if something had been

approved then it should be in the catalog, and that the process was quite rigorous for the student to achieve an individually designed major so there was no danger of too many students taking advantage.

After further discussion, the Chair requested volunteers to serve on the three person committee headed by Dean Poincelot. Professor Newton volunteered. Prof. Dew moved, and Prof. Simon seconded to approve Prof. Newton as the A&S CC representative to the Individually Designed major Committee. Approved unanimously.

#### b. New Course Proposals

Chair Porter reviewed the criteria by which the A&S CC evaluated new course proposals, from previous actions of the Committee and the Process and guidelines for consideration of new courses.

AE 271 The Sacred Balance. Prof. Newton presented this course on behalf of the Applied Ethics adjunct professor Bernice Marie-Daly, who had proposed it. Professor Dew moved, with Professor Garvey seconding, the approval of the course. Discussion ensued. Prof. Simon pointed out the lack of an academic honesty statement in the syllabus. Questions were raised as to how this would affect the number of adjuncts in Applied Ethics. Prof. Newton assured the committee that they would not increase. Prof. Bucki raised questions about the content of the course with very light reading loads, overlapping with other courses taught by Prof. Marie-Daly, and concerns re: Pedagogical methods and evaluation. Professor McFadden asked concerning the meeting of the program Committee of Applied Ethics – why were there no substantive comments by Prof. Hannafey, S. J., concerning a Religious Studies evaluation of the content and texts used by Prof. Marie-Daly. The minutes of the September 17, 2004 AE meeting noted “no questions were raised on content, or on the place of the course in the program, since these were addressed thoroughly in the presentation materials,” confining their discussion to discussing changing the weight of the final examination. Professor Newton responded that these issues had been thoroughly dealt with and the minutes of the AE Committee showed the support of Prof. Hannafey, S. J., for the course. Dean Snyder questioned the depth and rigor of the course, and the lack of evidence concerning any discussions of substantive issues in the committee. He also asked why the AE Committee had not sought the advice of Professor Sauer of Biology, who is working of questions of Religion and Science, (two different grants and the development of courses, including God and Modern Biology. He might be able to shed some light on the issues of Environment and Spirituality. Professor Garvey questioned why there was no way for students (or the committee) to understand which videos were being used because they were not named in the syllabus. Professor Simon raised questions of fairness, since the Prof. Newton on previous courses had responded to the A&S CC concerns regarding the constitution of the AE committee and the questionable practice of email consultation and approval of courses. Prof. Simon opined that perhaps the course could be taught as Special topics and return to the

committee later. Professor Dew raised questions concerning the depth of the course, seeing it as not much of a challenge for students. Several members of the Committee raised questions about the thinness and vagueness of the catalog description, which Professor Newton agreed should be enriched. Professor Newton responded for the AE Committee on all these issues, and further clarified that the course would be taught once each spring (4 times in 4 years), and would not rotate with the proposed EcoPsychology course, which was not being proposed to the A&S CC at this time.

Professor Dew withdrew his motion of approval. Professor Dew moved that AE 271 not be recommended at this time, seconded by Professor Bucki. The question was called. The motion was approved 5-1.

CO 238 Communication and Popular Culture. This course was proposed by new Communication faculty member David Gudalunas. Prof. Simon noted no grading breakdown. Prof. Newton noted no weighting requirements for various assignments. The list of readings is very rich, and the Committee was favorably impressed by the overall content. Concerns were raised about tying the course too closely to the Ignatian Residential College as part of its rationale. Perhaps the course could be approved conditional on making some changes in the syllabus and the requirements? Professor Bucki moved, seconded by Professor Simon, to approve the course subject to a revision of the syllabus to include criteria for grading, correction of typos, and elimination of the phrase "spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc are not graded". The question was called. Approved 5-0-1.

HI 303 "What If?" Alternate History and the Historical Imagination (History, Prof. Rosenfeld). Professor McFadden moved the acceptance of the course (seconded by Professor Bucki), and clarified some issues not adequately reflected in the History Department minutes which were thorough discussed in the Department meeting of September 10. The Department had asked Prof Rosenfeld to correct the course description to reflect only such topics that will be considered in the course itself, striking "What if Jesus had escaped crucifixion?" as not appropriate to the course. Secondly, concerns were raised by the History Department that perhaps too many weeks of the course were devoted to questions of the Nazis (4 weeks) but on the other hand this does remain the major focus of alternate history narratives. Other members of the Department raised questions concerning the mix of Professor Rosenfeld's offerings, but the Department felt that this was a separate issue for a later time. Professor McFadden also noted that the proof of this being a serious historical topic can be seen in the fact that a recent issue of the American Historical Review was completely devoted to counterfactual or alternate history, and the latest issue of Slavic Review was completely devoted to What ifs? Concerning the fall of Communism.

Several members of the A&SCC spoke to the high level and sophistication of the readings proposed for this advanced seminar for majors, and the cutting edge

nature of the questions, as well as the excitement of students in approaching issues from this perspective. The question was called. Approved 6-0-0.

MU 201 Critical Issues in American Popular Music: Blues to Hip Hop (Torff). Prof. McFadden wondered why this was 200 and not 300 level course. Prof. Dew asked why no final exam (it was pointed out that there was a final take home paper. Prof McFadden also noted that spell check never picks up the difference between its and it's and that if we ask our students to know the difference we should as well. Prof. Bucki pointed out that the catalog description speaks of an "upper level seminar" when in reality it is an intermediate level lecture course. Several members of the committee spoke strongly in favor of this course, which was thoroughly discussed by the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, especially on questions of race, and the mix between music and culture. Professor Bucki moved, seconded by professor Newton to approve. Question called. Approved unanimously 6-0-0.

MU 361 Choral Conducting Methods. A number of issues were raised about this course, the second in a series on Music Education program (MU 360 had been approved earlier by the Committee). A major concern raised by the committee was the existence of MU 12 and MU 150 as prerequisites, but that they could be taken concurrently. The Department discussion of the course did not address this issue. While it is certainly possible to for pre-reqs to be waived, the A&SCC felt that this could not be listed in the catalog in such a way. Either there were pre reqs or there were not. Professor Dew moved its acceptance, seconded by professor Garvey, for approval pending clarification of the question on pre-reqs. The question was called. Approved unanimously 6-0=0.

PO 344 Middle East Seminar (Patton, Politics). Professor McFadden moved its acceptance, seconded by Prof. Garvey, noting the crucial importance of this course at this time and its thorough and high level of rigor as a seminar to complement the introductory course which Prof. Patton teaches on Middle East Politics. Professor Newton raised questions about consulting more widely and overlap with other course, such as in History. There was some confusion in the materials concerning whether the course would shift its topics or would simply be called "Seminar on Middle East Politics", The Politics Department seemed to leave this open. Prof. Bucki pointed out that the sentence in the course description "since the topic of the seminar may vary, the registrar will be provided with the full title in the semester the course is offered" would be extremely difficult for the Registrar's office to work with and would also be confusing for students. It would be better to simply call it "Seminar on Middle East Politics" and the topic could vary depending on the situation. After further discussion the question was called. Approved unanimously, 6-0-0 subject to clarification of the catalog description.

PS 73. Unplugged. Dew moved to approve, seconded by Simon. Prof Bucki noted that the course seems useful and the labs rigorous for non-science majors.

Dean Snyder however pointed out that this is not consistent with the new work being done by the Science Core Committee . There is no math here, and the labs are weak. This looks too much like the old core. Prof. Newton raised issues of data collection and analysis. Prof. Porter pointed out that the minutes of the Physics Department do reflect a serious consideration of the issues. But the question of the Special Committee on the Science Core, which has been working for more than a year and which report (“the Steffen report”) was approved by the UCC and is pending implementation. It did not appear that this course was considered by the special committee on the science core , nor that the course had been referred to it.

Questions were raised about transition and more courses in the interim, and the consensus of the committee was firm that we should be moving to the new science core, not creating more courses in the old.

These issues of course apply as well to PS 77, and in addition it was noted that there was no academic honesty policy in PS 77.

McFadden moved seconded by Bucki that PS 73 and PS77 not be approved but rather sent to the special committee on the Science Core. Question was called. Approved 5-1.

MU 122 World Music history and Ensemble – for approval as a one week course. After some discussion pro and con this course it was noted that the Visual and Performing Arts Department Minutes of April 14, 2004 had recommended that the course be re-presented to the Department at a later date. No minutes of previous meeting showing any approval were attached to the proposal. In view of the lateness of the hour and the fact that a one week format for teaching in intersession either January or March could wait until the October meeting, Prof. McFadden moved, with second by Prof. Garvey, to send the course back to the VPA Department for action. Question called. Motion approved 4-2.

With great thanks for the long work of the committee, the chair adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

David McFadden, scribe du jour