

## APPROVED MINUTES - A&S Curriculum Committee (A&SCC)

Meeting of December 14, 2004.

Present: C. Bucki (Scribe), J. Campos, J. Garvey, D. McFadden, L. Newton, R. Salafia, L. Porter (chair).

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

2. **Minutes** of Nov. 9, 2004: two corrections to Item 2 (on page 2), Para 7, the first sentence of which should read: "Ron Salafia said that when there was a Neuroscience Program, some students tried to qualify for three majors, which in theory is possible if double-counting of courses was allowed." Para. 9: strike sentence "The state has put limits on it to prevent them from growing too much." Approved unanimously with corrections.

### 3. **New Business:**

#### a. New course proposals

1) RS 222: Lay People in the Church. Note that if Catholic Studies Program is approved, this course would be included. Discussion was extensive, as Newton pointed out many gaps in the proposal, including the fact that department questions noted in their minutes not being answered in the attached syllabus, the lack of a clearly defined final exam/paper, and asked that the outline of class meetings be augmented by listing of weekly readings. McFadden moved, seconded by Newton, to send back to proposer for correction and clarification, with request for re-submission of corrected proposal in February. Motion approved unanimously.

2) RS 130: Last Things: Catholic Belief in Life After Death. Question raised about lack of pre-requisite (question #3) -- don't all RS classes require RS 10 as pre-req? McFadden moved, Salafia seconded, to approve conditionally, pending clarification of question of pre-req. Motion approved unanimously.

#### b. Reconsideration of Individually-Designed Major (IDM) as a second major.

Bucki, noting that IDMs are a useful device for allowing minor programs to become majors in the hands of dedicated students, moved that IDM be allowed as second major with prohibition on double-counting of courses between the declared majors. A spirited discussion ensued, with protests that these majors should not be singled out for prohibition on double-counting. Moreover, some regular majors include courses from other departments so that the issue of double-counting between departments was a larger one than just IDMs. Motion died for lack of a second.

McFadden moved, seconded by Garvey, to withdraw the previous Fall 2003 committee decision to prohibit IDMs as a second major, and to allow the practice as long as the guidelines are strictly followed. Lengthy discussion commenced, with major points being: Careful adherence to the procedures developed for the IDM will safeguard this option from a flood of applications. The key responsibility lies with the student and the faculty advisor to create an academically challenging, high quality IDM. The committee is cognizant of the resources needed to work with an IDM. Individual faculty members are under no obligation to agree to

supervise an IDM, so that the decision to spend valuable time with it is the faculty member's decision alone. The faculty review board has the right and responsibility to reject any proposed IDM that does not meet the intent and spirit of the IDM. For example, excessive double-counting might be a reason to reject a proposal. The faculty review committee and dean's office are under no obligation to negotiate with students over this option. In particular, strict adherence to the timeline of declaring it in the sophomore year will prevent students from attempting to cobble together a weak IDM at the last minute. A simple procedure for receipt and review of applications each semester should take only minor administrative time, similar to how other committees (particularly the Research Committee) operates. Motion approved unanimously.

c. Following this decision, considering the case of student Julia Cunico who petitioned for a second major in Asian Studies, which the Dean's office had rejected for failure to follow the sophomore-year filing deadline, which Prof. Alan Katz argued was his fault as advisor. Everyone with knowledge of this student agreed that she was an excellent student who should be supported. McFadden moved, Bucki seconded, to direct the dean's office to allow Cunico to declare Asian Studies as second major. Note that this motion does NOT set a precedent for future students ignoring the deadline, and the deadline should be rigorously enforced in future. Unanimously approved.

- d. Procedure for oversight of Special Topics Courses: Jim Simon had requested that this issue be put off until spring semester. Agreed.
- e. Double-counting of courses for majors: committee realizes that this discussion requires input and information from various departments, so it is being put off until spring semester, allowing time to gather pertinent information. Agreed.

#### **4. Old Business**

a. Teaching credit for mentoring students through independent study or research: CAS Faculty Committee on Teaching Equity has made report to Dean's Council. Dean's Council has not acted on report, but if it approves the report, ASCC will then take up issue.

b. Moving to a 4/4 student load.: pending item. No action.

5. Next meeting: Feb. 8, which will be devoted to considering new course proposals. Note that deadline for new course proposals is Feb. 1 (request proposers to submit 9 copies plus original to chair Porter.).

6. Meeting wearily but cheerfully adjourned at 4:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecelia Bucki, Scribe *du jour*.