

Approved Minutes, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee
3:30 PM February 8, 2005, Cns 100

The meeting was brought to order at 3:35 PM by Chair Lynne Porter.

Present were ~~Dr.~~ Porter, James Simon, Javier Campos, Dean Raymond Poincelot sitting in for Dean Timothy Snyder, and Lisa Newton, Secretary Pro Tem.

1. Appointment of secretary: Campos was on the schedule, but delayed, so Lisa Newton agreed to take minutes.

2. The Minutes from the December 14, 2004, meeting were approved with one minor correction: the minutes say “Jim Simon requested . . .,” when Jim Simon was not at the meeting but had previously requested Chair Porter to make the request for him; the wording is changed to “Jim Simon **had** requested. . .” Minutes approved with one abstention (Simon).

3. New business:

a. Consideration of New Course proposals:

AE 271: The Sacred Balance.

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Lisa Newton

Discussion: general remarks that this proposal is greatly improved, in clarity, focus, and rigor, since it was last seen in September.

Approved without comment.

AE 276: Global Business Policy

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Lisa Newton

Discussion: General approval, Javier Campos adding that the syllabus is particularly well formed to show goals, objectives, and methods of assessment. Potential problem: the title could suggest many subjects besides Ethics. Under the circumstances, could “Ethics” be added to the title? Dr. Newton suggested “Ethical Dimensions of Global Business Policy” and all agreed that sounded right. Approved with no other comment.

CO 248: Health Communication

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Javier Campos

Discussion: The course seemed to be well adapted to the need it meant to fill. The syllabus is particularly explicit about the requirements that the student must meet. The only problem is a formal one; the prerequisites for the course must be added to the catalog description. Approved without further comment.

CO 329: Contemporary Topics in Organizational Communication

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Javier Campos

Discussion: Lisa Newton complained that the course description was essentially a blank check, contentless, with content to be added only later on. Jim Simon pointed out that this Special Topics course existed in many departments, and that the department had to approve the content each time that it was

offered. Cecelia Bucki, however, comments that each repeat running of the course should come back to the A&SCC for approval as a separate course. [This reflects the current confusion about the proper procedure for approval of Special Topics courses, which is still on this committee's agenda.](#) Approved without further comment.

EN 278: Irish Women Writers

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Lisa Newton

Discussion: This course fills a hole in the curriculum of the English literature offering, and will serve the Irish Studies minor as well. Looks to be a wonderful course. Cecelia Bucki notes that the course is being developed by an adjunct, while (according to the Department minutes) not all full-time faculty courses are filling; department should keep an eye on this. Approved without comment.

FM 200: Film Genres

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Javier Campos

Lisa Newton again wanted to know why we are approving a blank check, and not asking for all these genres to have separate course numbers. The answer is that as a general rule, every course in the catalog should be offered, or at least offerable, every four years. But there are so many film genres that we'd never get to them all in four years. So we have one course that rotates among the genres. True, as with CO 329, a student attempting to register for a second helping of this course would be spurned by the registrar's computer, and would require a manual override; this limitation has proved manageable in the past. Jim Simon asked if the writing assignments could be spelled out a bit more. Is there enough writing? We should at least be clear on what the assignments entail. What, for instance, are the expectations for the journal? Chair Porter agreed to mention this question in the memo to the proposer. Cecelia Bucki noticed that the proposal was not signed, an omission ~~corrected by Chair Porter, overlooked by everyone else. (Not by me — that's been taken care of.)~~ Approved without further comment.

FR 295/EN 295: Caribbean Literature: History, Culture and Identity.

Move to Approve: Lisa Newton; Second: Javier Campos

Discussion: this course seems to fit in beautifully with our concern for literature of the developing world; the proposer is encouraged to apply for World Diversity designation. Cecelia wants to know how it can be restricted to French majors and minors when there are no prerequisites. Approved without other comment.

MU 362: Secondary Instrumental Methods

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Lisa Newton

Discussion: This is the third of four courses that Laura Nash has been putting together to meet the State of Connecticut

requirements for state certification of music teachers. Approved without comment.

PY 350: Seminar in Psychology of Race and Ethnicity

Move to Approve: Lisa Newton; Second: Jim Simon

Discussion: the excellence of the concept of the course, its fit with Fairfield's mission, and the appropriateness of the materials for its purposes, was not questioned. Larry Mazon is indeed qualified to teach, and does teach. The formatting of the proposal is kind of weird, probably stemming from the computer crash in Bannow about the time the course proposals had to be turned in. Cecilia Bucki: is the Department sure this does not overlap with PY 291? Approved without further comment.

PS 89, Physics of Sports.

Move to Approve: Jim Simon; Second: Javier Campos.

Discussion: This course was turned back to the Physics Department the last time we saw it, with requests for ~~improvement and~~ approval by the Science Core Committee. It was noted that a letter from L. Kraig Steffen, Chair of the Science Core Committee, is appended, indicating that Committee's approval of the course. Jim Simon commented that the minutes of the department meeting in which the course was approved by Physics do not indicate a very robust discussion—just some general and unattributed comments. This lack is not enough to hold the course back. Chair Porter applauded the Physics Department for coming up with a class the students will actually want to take. Approved without further comment.

b(1). Cross-listing of GM 291: Modern German Language in Translation with EN 258: Special Topics in Literature.

~~[Lynne: help me out here? I have no notes on this one at all.]~~ This topic was not discussed, and will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

b(2). Consideration of Proposed Minor Program in Catholic Studies.

Move to Approve: Jim Simon, Second: Javier Campos

Discussion: Several serious concerns were raised about this proposal:

1. The requirements for an interdisciplinary program include an interdisciplinary board in place to contribute to the formation of the program, but there doesn't seem to be one yet. Not only must the members of the board be identified, but there must be some documented evidence that they have been part of the discussions leading up to the proposal in consultation with their own programs.
2. The members of the board are the relevant persons to determine the appropriateness of listing all courses not in the home department of the proposer, in this case all courses in AE, AH, EN, HI, PJ, PH, and PO. The listing of courses could be accompanied by some explanation of the minor's themes served by each cluster.

3. Not all of the elements are in place, especially the introductory course in Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Course approval for new courses is not assured, and it would seem to be a good idea to have that one in place. There is, for another instance, no provision for a Capstone Experience, or for any 300 level courses at all except in the English Department. In general, a proposal for a minor should have at least the clarity that a description of a minor does in the catalog. (See, for instance, Russian/East European Studies, catalog p. 168, or Women's Studies, catalog p. 200.)
4. None of the Committee could say why, on the basis of the presentation given, Catholic Studies should not be a Concentration within a Religious Studies Major (or Minor). Most of the listed courses that deal primarily with Catholicism are, unsurprisingly, in Religious Studies. The others could certainly be part of a guided Concentration; no courses in disciplines other than RS are essential to the program and no courses listed are subject to outside accreditation requirements that would take them out of range of RS oversight. Nor are there any non-academic activities (mission or service activities through Campus Ministry, for instance) required or even contemplated. (A member of the meeting who shall remain nameless suggested that the motivation for creating a separate Program in Catholic Studies might be to obtain a stipend for the Director and more resources for the Department.)
5. The letter from John Noonan was inspiring but not persuasive. There is no sense in which our Religious Studies courses are limited to "the study of worship, ritual and sacred texts," as Harvard's apparently are. (Cf.: Voices of Medieval Women, The Reformation Era, The Papacy, and the Program Director's own Liberation Theology.) There is no reason why our RS Department cannot shelter Catholic Studies; indeed, in a Catholic University, the Committee thought that that might be one of its central tasks.
6. There is some unclarity on the routing of such proposals, which we will review next time.

Vote: to Disapprove, but with enthusiasm for working with the Director and entertaining a revised proposal, if desired, at the next meeting.

A move to adjourn followed the consideration of the Catholic Studies proposal, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. Newton, Secretary pro tem.

