

Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes November 8, 2011

Attendance

Present: Anita Fernandez, Johanna Garvey, Manyul Im, Jerelyn Johnson (Chair), Scott Lacey, Doug Peduti, Vin Rosivach, Giovanni Ruffin, Les Schaffer, Janet Striuli, Roxana Walker-Canton, Quin Zhang

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33.

Approval of the Minutes

Vin moved to accept the minutes from October 18, 2011. Anita seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with nine votes and one abstention.

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Majors/Minors Revision

Approval of New Courses

Prof. Mary Anne Carolan attended the meeting to present the rationale for new changes to the majors and minors curriculum. She presented the current catalog description of the major and minor and summarized the proposed changes that would allow students to take fewer courses in the target language in order to enroll in relevant courses taught in English and possibly offered through other departments. She suggested that the rationale for the changes is to reach a larger section of the undergraduate population who may not be able to speak the target language and to create a more interdisciplinary approach to the major and minor by integrating relevant courses from other departments into the major/minor curriculum. She pointed out that the rationale for the changes are the same for each of the languages (French, German, Spanish, and Italian).

Vin commented that the requirements were being diluted by reducing the number of required classes that the students take in the language. He asked if the department had considered having tracks, one that focuses on the language and one that focuses on the study of the language and culture. He also wondered if the department had considered also keeping the status quo arrangement where students take more classes in the language.

Mary Anne pointed out that offering the tracks presents issues in enrollment management which makes that approach a less feasible option. She said that the changes are a matter of necessity. She, however, also supports moving toward a more interdisciplinary approach to the major and minor. She agreed that they should offer courses in English because she believes that students can learn a lot in these other courses. The presentation in the capstone course for Italian, French and German will be in English to provide a common language of instruction for the various languages. Doing so places language and culture in a larger scope. From a practical perspective, the department is unable to offer many upper level courses in each language and meet the enrollment requirement.

Manyul commented that in reference to the issue of dilution, the change only allows students to enroll in one less course in the target language.

Mary Anne said that majors take ten major courses. Two of the courses can be taught in English and the capstone is taught in English. Students still must take seven classes in the target language. This presents only a one-course difference from the original required course of study.

Vin noticed that the French curriculum centered on Paris and the German on East/West. He asked if this will change each semester.

Mary Anne responded that the focus reflects the interest of the current faculty.

Giovanni asked if there is an institutional reason for having one less course in the older version of the curriculum for French, Italian, and German.

Mary Anne replied that it was revamped.

Vin commented that we have to think about these small classes and combine some courses particularly for the languages.

Mary Anne pointed out the difficulty with class size especially with many students studying abroad each semester.

Jerelyn added that the department is trying to standardize the languages and standardize the capstone to offer more students more options.

Anita asked how other modern language departments at other universities handle these issues.

Mary Anne stated that there is more movement toward a studies type of model within the field. She pointed out that other schools do not have the strict restraints that Fairfield has for enrollment. Other schools offer courses where they don't need 10 students to fill upper level courses. Faculty are concerned with what happened at CUNY where they eliminated language courses. The department is focusing on how it can make language more relevant to students. Students should be able to read Quixote without having to read Spanish.

Jerelyn pointed out that the majors and minors revisions move on to the UCC and the course approvals stay with ASCC.

Manyul moved to approve the revisions. Janet seconded the motion.

Anita commented that the changes make sense.

Scott added that the proposed revisions were a great approach to deal with issues.

Manyul commented that the department is figuring out how to make the other three languages (French, Italian, and German) more interdisciplinary like Spanish major/minor.

Jerelyn stated that they did not have to make the same type of changes for the Spanish major/minor.

It was unanimously approved to accept the revisions for the major and minor.

Giovanni moved to approve FR 220, GM 220 and SP 220 as a block instead of individually since the changes to each are the same.

Scott seconded the motion.

Vin voted against the motion suggesting that each course should be considered individually.

Manyul agreed with Vin.

Giovanni rescinded his motion.

Johanna moved to approve FR 220.

Vin seconded the motion and asked if the course description could indicate that the course could be taught with a different focus each semester.

Jerelyn commented that this is implied in the course description. The objectives are the same, but what the professor teaches will vary from semester to semester.

Anita added that she did not think that the syllabus sample implied that the course would be taught the same way each semester.

Giovanni added that what matters most are that the course title and course description seem general enough to be inclusive.

FR 220 was unanimously accepted.

Doug moved to approve GM 220. Qin seconded the motion.

Doug said that after reading the syllabus, he went to the links provided on the syllabus, and it was great.

Jerelyn said that it is a very interactive course.

GM 220 was unanimously accepted.

Qin moved to approve SP 220. Anita seconded the motion.

Qin asked how many sections of SP 220 would be offered each semester.

Jerelyn responded that 2 sections would be offered per semester.

Vin asked if comic strips would always be part of the course since it is in the course description. He emphasized that this is in the catalog copy.

Manyul suggested that the chair could request to include (e.g.) in the catalog to suggest that comic strips are one of many other types of material to be used in the course.

Jerelyn commented that the students would not study all the genres that are listed in the catalog description.

SP 220 was unanimously approved.

Manyul moved to approve IT 377-378 Internship. Janet seconded the motion.

Manyul asked if the revision was made more to make the numbers uniform.

Jerelyn pointed out that the department added an internship for German because one did not exist.

Giovanni asked if Jerelyn could provide examples of what type of work students would do in the internship.

Jerelyn said that most of the internships that she supervised were in the area of teaching. Students will observe language classes (at Fairfield Prep), teach lessons at the school and have pedagogical meetings with the internship professor. She suggested that there were other types of internships as well.

IT 377-378 was unanimously approved.

Vin moved to approve GM 377-78. Manyul seconded the motion.

GM 377-78 was unanimously approved.

Johanna moved to approve FR/GM/IT 399. Qin seconded the motion.

Jerelyn explained that the joint capstone course is interdisciplinary in nature. It has a common focus but is not country specific. Instruction and work for the course will be in English, but students are required to do research in their respective target language. The professor of the capstone may engage professors teaching languages

outside of her or his field to help to evaluate the primary sources that students use in their research.

Manyul asked for clarification that if a professor were unable to judge the material, that she or he would seek out other professors.

Jerelyn assured that this procedure is standard.

FR/GM/IT 399 was unanimously approved.

Bachelors of Professional Studies

Aaron Perkus, Irene Mulvey and Giovanni, members of the subgroup of the joint Subcommittee on UC Matters, presented material about the Bachelors of Professional Studies.

Jerelyn pointed out that the actions that the committee would like for the ASCC to take on this proposal are found on page 1 of the handout and that pages 2-6 detail the program review (see handouts).

Giovanni stated that the Academic Council voted to approve, in principle, the Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS). This is the only degree program out of University College (UC). The question being presented to the ASCC is whether or not the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) wants to preserve the BPS and if it should function out of the College of Arts and Science for the students who are not part of the traditional student demographic. What will be the requirements for the BPS if it comes under CAS? This subcommittee is asking the ASCC for an advisory opinion about the following question: If UC closes, should the BPS continue to be offered through CAS?

Anita asked about the requirements for admission into University College and how different they are from admission into CAS.

Aaron responded that UC has open admission and primarily serves lifetime learners or students who have left Fairfield University as full-time students for various reasons. Aaron suggested that if the BPS remains in UC, that the UC core would only apply to students seeking the BPS.

Irene commented that open admission is not the way to go. The focus for the ASCC is to decide if BPS students completing 120 credits with a minimum of 45 at Fairfield (the credits outside of the major can be over 10 years old) take a modified core. Presently, a part-time student would take the modified core. The committee only wants to allow adult lifetime learners to take the modified core, but not other BPS students outside of that group.

Aaron commented that the Dolan School of Business (DSB) curriculum committee, because of accreditation, does not support the BPS be part of the school of business.

The committee, however, supports having some of their classes be part of the major curriculum. The DSB curriculum committee is in the process of accepting more classes taken at other institutions, but presently they do not accept community college credits.

Giovanni asked if the committee views offering a degree for lifelong learners at Fairfield useful.

Doug asked why should BPS students have a modified core.

Aaron interjected that if we do not have a modified core, we will not have students because they will opt to go to Sacred Heart or Quinnipiac.

Qin asked if students could be full-time.

Aaron answered that UC allows students to move between full and part-time fluidly. The only difference is change in tuition.

Jerelyn noticed that there is no language requirement for the BPS.

Aaron commented that there is no language requirement, one math and one science requirement for the BPS.

Janet asked for the subgroup to explain the concentrations.

Aaron explained that there are currently 5 concentrations but that the concentrations are mainly for marketing. The concentrations suggest ways for students to bundle courses to show what they can do with the courses.

Jerelyn asked what is the rationale for not including language.

Vin responded that a case has been made that adult learners will have problems with learning a new language. They could, however, take a language if they so desire.

Aaron responded that many community colleges require foreign language; so many students who are transferring to the Fairfield from community colleges come with foreign language credits. Half of these students are adult learners.

Manyul asked what is the advantage of maintaining BPS and having it come under CAS.

Giovanni suggested that the BPS could feed into the developing Masters of Liberal Studies Program.

Irene added that the BPS is a good community program that reaches out to adult learners and brings them to campus. A question that has been raised is whether faculty will be concerned if this degree will have the same integrity as the existing degree programs majors in the CAS.

Vin said that he was concerned whether or not the students would graduate with a UC degree.

Johanna asked how would advising work if the BPS moves into the college.

Aaron stated that he imagines that this would be housed in the Dean's office. Advising would come from the Dean's office, but students would find professors to work with from the CAS departments and programs. Since the BPS has been in UC there hasn't been much engagement with full-time faculty across the university.

Giovanni pointed out that the Academic Council has a timeline on this matter and would like a written report from the ASCC by the end of Nov.

Jerelyn responded that while she appreciates the timeline, she did not believe that the ASCC could finalize its considerations today.

Manyul added that if the AC is looking for an advisory decision, the ASCC should have more time to consider the issue.

Irene added that the modified core would only be for the BPS major. One of the five concentrations is in liberal studies. The degree will say Bachelors of Professional Studies.

Vin suggested that we should discuss this at another meeting.

Jerelyn added that we can table the discussion.

Irene asked that the ASCC provide its advisory decision in writing.

Vin moved to thank the guests for presentation.

Qin asked what happens after we discuss the material further.

Irene stated that since the degree already exists, it does not have to be approved. The faculty has to approve to offer it through CAS. The process now is only in an advisory role, but the subgroup may have to return to the ASCC in the spring for official approval.

Giovanni moved that the CAS adopt the BPS. Les seconded the motion.

Manyul moved to table the discussion.

7 voted in favor to table the discussion. 4 opposed to table the discussion. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Irish Studies Program Changes

Manyul moved to approve the Irish Studies Program changes. Vin seconded the motion.

Vin commented that the changes make sense.

The changes were unanimously approved.

Philosophy New Course Approvals

Manyul moved to approve PH 209. Doug seconded the motion.

Manyul commented that the course will be a great addition to the Philosophy curriculum and that it will be a popular course.

PH 209 was unanimously approved.

Manyul moved to approve PH 314. Qin seconded the motion.

Jerelyn pointed out that this would be the department's first new 300 level course.

Johanna noted that the proposal demonstrated that the course is appropriate for a 300 level course.

PH 314 was unanimously approved.

Qin moved to approve PH 397 Special Topics. Doug seconded the motion.

Jerelyn commented that the department does not have a 300-level special topics course. The 299-level special topics course will remain in the curriculum. This 300-level special topics course will be taught as a seminar as opposed to a regular course.

Vin asked that since special topics courses usually focus on a single topic, would this be a rotating topic course.

Manyul responded that the course would serve two purposes. It allows faculty to teach a course related to their research, and it allows faculty to test a new 300 level course.

Jerelyn points out that the significant amount of research involved in the course is another distinguishing feature.

PH 397 was unanimously approved.

RS 222/AS 389

Jerelyn stated that she has the hardcopies of RS 222/AS 389 and that the minutes are on Mentor. This is a course that would like to be cross-listed. The course used to be cross-listed, but since it had not been taught for a while, it was dropped from the Religious Studies catalog. It must go through the process of being cross-listed again. AS 389 will be offered next semester.

Manyul moved to accept cross-listing RS222 and AS 389. Janet seconded the motion.

Vin suggested that anything cross-listed has to be new course.

Manyul speaks in favor of the cross-listing because the Religious Studies faculty approved it.

10 voted to approve cross-listing RS 222 and AS 389 and 1 abstained.

Adjournment

Manyul moved to adjourn. Doug seconded the motion.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Roxana Walker-Canton