

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Meeting of February 14, 2012

Draft Minutes

Present: Fernandez, Garvey, Johnson (chair), Rosivach, Ruffini (recording), Walker-Canton, Weiss, Xie, Zhang

Absent: Lacy, Peduti

Approval of Minutes

Garvey moves to adopt the draft minutes of December 13, 2011. Walker-Canton seconds the motion. Weiss notes that the date on the minutes should read “2011” rather than “2010” and corrects the spelling of Prof. Lacy’s last name. Johnson asks that the remark attributed to her in the second to last line of Section 0.8 be stricken, as she did not say it.

The motion to pass the minutes as amended passes with 6 votes in favor and none opposed, with one abstention.

Order of Business

1. Closure of the Communication Cohort Program: Zhang presents the rationale for the closure of the program. Ruffini moves to endorse the communication department’s decision to close the program. Rosivach seconds the motion. The motion passes with 7 votes in favor and none opposed, with one abstention.
2. AH/MU/NM/TA/SA 306: Rosivach moves to approve this course proposal and Zhang seconds the motion. Discussion recommends clarification of the distribution of grading percentages. Further discussion ensues on who will be offering the course, and on the course number. Rosivach asserts that the proposal’s answer to Question 9B is unacceptable as it stands, and further suggests that the department should create a VPA rubric for numbering courses such as this. Weiss recommends that Johnson forward these two suggestions to the department.
Fernandez moves to approve the course proposal contingent on the department’s adoption of these modifications. Garvey seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
3. BI 371: Zhang moves to approve this course proposal and Fernandez seconds the motion. Fernandez presents the background for the course proposal. Zhang notes that the catalogue description should read “4 credits” instead of “4 units” and recommends a clarification of the grading scale. The motion passes unanimously.
4. CO 220: Zhang moves to approve this course proposal and Fernandez seconds the motion. The motion passes with 6 votes in favor and one vote against, with one abstention.
5. CO 325: Rosivach moves to approve this course proposal and Zhang seconds the motion. Discussion ensues on the lack of a prerequisite and the discussion of this issue contained in the departmental minutes. Weiss asks for clarification of this issue. Zhang notes that this course hopes to attract outside students, perhaps with instructor approval. Rosivach suggests that the department should either add a prerequisite or lower the course number. Ruffini moves to approve the course proposal contingent on departmental clarification of the prerequisites. Fernandez seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
6. EN 128: Zhang moves to approve this course proposal and Rosivach seconds the motion. Discussion endorses the course’s relation to the university’s coming “Cities” theme.

Weiss notes that the disabilities services phone number on the syllabus is incomplete. Johnson notes the need to replace the course number “1XX” with “128” passim. The motion passes unanimously.

7. EN 233: Garvey moves to approve this course proposal and Walker-Canton seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
8. ENW 341: Zhang moves to approve this course proposal and Xie seconds the motion. Discussion follows on the difference between the respective courses ENW 340, 341 and 398. The motion passes unanimously.
9. ENW 398: Fernandez moves to approve this course proposal and Garvey seconds the motion. Weiss notes that erroneous references to a course number “397” should be changed to “398” passim. Discussion follows of how the top students would be selected for this class, and how this course would work in an instructor’s load. Weiss asserts that the committee should worry about curriculum and the dean should worry about loads. Rosivach disagrees, noting that Question 9B (relevant to course load) is part of the committee’s concern. Johnson will ask for clarification of this question. Rosivach moves to approve the course pending that clarification. Fernandez seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
10. ENW 498: Rosivach moves to approve this course proposal and Walker-Canton seconds the motion. Weiss questions how the system proposed for this course can be cost-neutral: how can a 6-credit course add no cost to a 60-credit program? Discussion follows on this issue. Garvey notes that students will pay to take this course, but are not obliged to take it. Further discussion follows on how hiring of these students as teachers would work. Are we as a committee in a position to approve a course which will result in university employee hires? Rosivach asserts that these issues are above the committee’s pay-grade, and that we should accept or reject the course and send the issue to the Academic Council. Ruffini moves to approve this course pending the Academic Council’s resolution of this issue. Weiss seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

The chair calls for a meeting on February 28, 2012.