

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee
corrected minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2012
(= continuation of the meeting of February 14, 2012)

Present: Professors Walker-Canton, Fernandez, Garvey, Johnson (chair), Lacey, Peduti, Rosivach, Ruffini, Xie, Zhang; Associate Dean Im.

1. *New course approvals:*

a. Prof. Johnson announced that **EN/W 498** had been withdrawn and will be resubmitted later as two courses. The committee had had administrative concerns about this course and had intended to ask the Academic Council for clarification but with the withdrawal of the course this will no longer be necessary.

b. **HI 337** was approved unanimously with the understanding that its catalogue description needed to be shortened to the 100-word limit and that the relationship between the numerical grades used in the course and the final letter grade awarded the student be clarified.

c. **HI 338** was approved unanimously, with a suggestion that the grading policy be clarified in the syllabus.

There was also a more general discussion on the relationship of numerical and letter grades and it appeared to be the consensus that if a 1-to-100 scale was used grades had to be translated into numbers according to the description in the *Catalog* but that there was no requirement that the 1-to-100 scale be used; the committee, however, took no vote on the matter. In the course of this discussion Dean Im pointed out that the only requirement in the *Journal of Record* concerning grading was that the final comprehensive evaluation should normally be c. 33% of the semester grade. Prof. Xie also pointed out that the Committee needed to be flexible on the place of class attendance and participation in calculating a final grade since the importance of attendance and participation varies with the subject matter and the nature of the course; in hands-on courses faithful attendance is essential.

d. **MA 11** was approved unanimously. In the discussion before approval Prof. Fernandez made the clarification that the course was intended for students who would need higher math for their major.

e. **PH 212** was approved unanimously. Prof. Peduti noted that the course was added as part of the changes in the Philosophy department's curriculum and did not represent a net increase in the number of courses taught by the department.

f. **PO 170** was approved unanimously with the understanding that the number of class meetings be adjusted to conform to the Fairfield University calendar, that the relation of grades

expressed as a percentage of the final grade to the final letter grade be clarified in the syllabus, and that the syllabus be clearer about which assignment will serve as the comprehensive final evaluation. Dean Im noted that the course replaced one of Prof. Orman's old courses.

g. TL 232 was approved unanimously with the understanding that the number of class meetings be adjusted to conform to the Fairfield University calendar. There was some initial uncertainty about how the course could have been taught in the past by other professors without committee approval but Prof. Garvey explained that it had been taught as a special topics course.

2. Religious Studies course renumbering:

Prof. Johnson explained that this issue fell into the gray area of what comes before the committee and what can be handled by the chair, and that she had put the item on the agenda to seek the committee's advice. The issue was a renumbering of Religious Studies courses which would match that in Philosophy. The core would not be changed, and the learning outcomes for the different sections of RS 101 would be the same as those for the present RS 10. In the discussion it was pointed out that the areas covered by the different sections of RS 101 were somewhat different from those covered by sections of RS 10. Prof. Garvey asked how this would affect the use of these courses to fulfill the World Diversity requirement; Dean Im said that the new versions will have to be resubmitted for approval, and that the department should be alerted to this. Dean Im also noted that other departments and programs would have to rethink how these revised RS 101 sections fit into their requirements but that this was the departments'/programs' work, not the committees. Prof. Rosivach said that, aside from the clarifications raised concerning RS 101, the changes proposed by Religious Studies were simply course-number changes, which fell within the chair's purview, and moved that **upon review the committee found nothing in the Religious Studies proposal beyond number changes, and that the proposal therefore was not something that the committees as a whole needs to consider**; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Catholic Studies Minor Five-Year Review:

Prof. Rosivach noted that the committee's options were not limited to a recommendation to approve permanent status for the minor or to abolish it, and that the committee could recommend an extension for the program to address issues raised by their five-year report. Discussion of the program's five-year report highlighted the small number of minors (there was some uncertainty as to whether the number in the report was too low), the need for more student recruiting and greater contact with the students in the program, and uncertainty about current membership of the supervisory committee. Prof. Rosivach moved that **the committee recommend the minor in Catholic Studies be extended for three years to allow the program's steering committee to address the issues raised in these minutes; that (in reference to item 9 of the program's report) it either take steps to get the minor going or recommend its termination; and that in particular it consider severing the chair of Catholic Studies from the**

directorship of the program to follow the pattern of director and active steering committee found in other interdisciplinary programs. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. There was a brief informal discussion of **MU 262**, which had been previously referred back to its proposer, and it was agreed that the department would need a one-credit special topics shell course before this course could be submitted as a special topics course.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent J. Rosivach
secretary *pro tem*