

ARTS & SCIENCES CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

8 May 2012
3:30-5:00 p.m.
BCC 206

Approved by the committee, 18 September 2012

Present: Dean Robbin Crabtree, Anita Fernandez, Johanna Garvey (scribe), Jerelyn Johnson (Chair), Scott Lacy, Doug Peduti, Vin Rosivach, Giovanni Ruffini, Roxana Walker-Canton, Qin Zhang, Tommy Xie

Guests: Shannon Harding, Mark Scalese, David Crawford

Chair called the meeting to order at 3:32.

I. Approval of Minutes, April 10, 2012

MOTION to approve the minutes of April 10, 2012 (Ruffini, Fernandez)

Correction, item III, page 5, 0 abstentions

MOTION APPROVED 7-0-1

II. Approval of New Course Proposals

a) SP 225

MOTION to approve SP 225 (Walker-Canton, Fernandez)

Johnson explained the course, the need for such a course, and noted that the proposer was hired two years ago as a linguist. Fernandez said that the course looks interesting and that the learning outcomes are nailed down. Xie asked when it would be taught; Johnson said in Spring 2013. Xie noted that the syllabus only has thirteen weeks, and needs fourteen or fifteen. Zhang noted that on page 8 the grading scale lists a B+ as 87-89. Rosivach spoke ecstatically in favor of the course.

MOTION approved unanimously 9-0-0.

b) PY 372

This item was wrapped together with item III, proposal for a new minor in Behavioral Neuroscience, as they go together. Shannon Harding presented a history of the proposal. The course PY 372 is now being taught for the first time (Spring 2012) as a senior seminar with fifteen students (2 more were on a wait list), mostly seniors. The course has been terrific, with an oral final, great comp's, and positive feedback. They took a field trip to a cadaver lab in Bridgeport. Discussion have been student-led, covering key areas and topics in the field. All the students would have liked the proposed minor. Furthermore, accepted students want such a program. Stonehill has a major in Behavioral Neuroscience. Currently, students pursue a Psychology major with Biology. They have been accepted at Boston College and elsewhere for grad school. Harding said that they reviewed other schools and sent emails to our students. In Psychology, they found across the board student interest in this minor. Biology students were also queried,

and of the 27 who responded, 26 expressed interesting in this minor. All of the students in the seminar were in favor of the proposed minor. Harding said the department will be hiring a neuro-psychologist who can teach human neuro-psych regularly or Linda Henkel can offer the course in rotation. For non-PY majors, this will create a more formal process and label for what students are already doing. Harding went over the requirements: 2 courses are required and three others are to be selected from a list. PY is up for program review next year.

Vin noted that there was such a program and asked how history has interfaced with this proposal. Harding said that it fell apart, over political and budgetary issues. There have been two hires since then (Harding, Henkel) who cover this field, and Ron Salafia has become interested in it. Thus there are new resources in terms of faculty as well as the new facilities in Bannow.

Peduti asked about the rationale for a minor not counting for one in PY—no double-counting? Harding noted that this is for non PY majors. It is an unofficial concentration now offered for PY majors.

Crabtree asked whether PY 298 and 398 could be two of the three electives? Harding said yes. Crabtree noted that staffing for minors is an issue to consider. She also noted that the senior seminar enrolled fifteen students, and asked about the number of students regularly interested. Harding said that they would offer the seminar alternate years. She also said that it could accommodate eighteen students. The neuroanatomy lab accommodates ten students. Another option is individual supervised research.

MOTION to approve PY 372 (Fernandez, Rosivach)

Zhang spoke in favor, noting that it covers important issues such as alcohol, drugs, stress, eating disorders. Johnson said that it had already been vetted as a special topic course. Lacy spoke in favor saying that it adds to the bio/anthropology offerings. Walker-Canton spoke in favor, saying that it is designed to prepare students for grad school. Rosivach said that the PY Department did its homework and did a good job with the proposal. Xie spoke in favor, commenting on the syllabus's emphasis on oral communication.

MOTION approved unanimously 10-0-0

MOTION to endorse the proposal for a minor in Behavioral Neuroscience (Fernandez, Peduti)

Fernandez said that it serves a big need for biology majors and that formal recognition would be very useful. Peduti said that it will help with recruitment, especially in the sciences. Zhang liked the interdisciplinarity of linking psychology and biology.

Rosivach congratulated those who wrote the proposal and wanted to amend the motion. There should be a five-year trial period, such that the minor is subject to the standard reviews after five years.

Dean Crabtree noted that the new program approval process includes minors and requires a five-year review. She also appreciated the student input that the PY Department had sought. She has suggested questions in self-study for external review that will help the process of moving from a minor to a major.

MOTION endorsed unanimously 10-0-0

IV. New Media Curriculum Revision

Mark Scalese presented the document, explaining that the revisions are the result of a five-year review of the new major, examining how to improve it. The process has gone through stages of evaluating, creating ideas, and then revising.

Peduti asked if these are major revisions.

Scalese said that the existing name included “radio,” but few students had interest in that area. “New Media” was deceiving, intended to convey that traditional media converge today. But the term is more technical—including the web, non-linear story-telling, participatory media, installations (e.g., Professor Walker-Canton’s in February 2012). Originally there was a single-semester capstone, but that was not long enough, requiring a full year. They took away one elective to add a second semester of the capstone. For the category Historical Analysis, students could pick and choose without a broad, canonical introduction to texts. It seemed good to make it three courses, which removed an elective. So they looked at the whole picture as they made the revisions.

Discussion ensued on the number of credits required and on when a student must start the major. A second-semester sophomore could start the major but would need almost all core completed and would still have to take six NM courses per year. The new courses linked to the proposal have not yet gone through the approval process in VPA. Other questions arose concerning double-counting courses with media courses in Communication (Scalese said they are open to that possibility), the possibility of Professor Xie’s Digital Journalism course counting in the Production sequence, and more discussion of electives in the newly revised major. Dean Crabtree asked about the capstone experience, and Scalese noted that a student from this year’s course won the Arts & Sciences Award.

Discussion ensued on options within the major.

MOTION to endorse the revised proposal for New Media curriculum (Walker-Canton, Xie)

Discussion: Rosivach asked whether these changes mean it needs to go beyond the A&SCC. Crabtree said that we need to consult Mary Frances Malone: it may not need to go to Academic Council, EPC, UCC. Notification needs to go to the Stte because it is a degree name change. We should send it to Mary Frances Malone and note what is

revised. Rosivach said that the key question is whether it requires state notification or approval; the latter requires that it go through all committees.

Johnson asked whether the revision affects the core. Walker-Canton said that it removes many course from the core. Crabtree said that we add and sunset courses all the time, so it is not necessary for the UCC to see the revisions on that score. Rosivach said that the *J of R* is very literal about our core curriculum.

Dean Crabtree noted that the new design has more sequencing and she worries about students who start the major late, though that situation is parallel to science majors. Bottlenecks may hem in the faculty, she noted.

Rosivach said that he tells first-year students that it is OK to be undeclared. If we offer that advice, we better offer the course. It is understood for the sciences that the curricula are so heavily weighted (they receive a BS, not a BA). WE recognize that rigidity, but we should keep all BA majors as accessible as possible for first- and second-year students.

Johnson asked how many courses are offered each semester—is it really sixteen? Walker-Canton said yes, though a few do alternate; they have three full-time faculty and some adjuncts; it seems more rigid than it is, and students can jump into foundational courses at any time. Crabtree again expressed concerns about the hierarchical structure. Walker-Canton said that they have dealt with students case-by-case; using permission of the instructor and being open to adjustments.

MOTION to call the question (Ruffini/Garvey)

Question is called 7-2-1

MOTION to endorse the revisions passes 9-1-0

V. Joint Sociology/Anthropology Major Proposal

David Crawford gave an introduction to the proposal, saying that it had been prepared by the whole department, with debate, in on-going discussion for the past four years. The Sociology colleagues drove the proposal and the Anthropology colleagues feel included. All resources and courses exist already. The students chart a different path and construct an intellectual identity differently than in the current major. The proposed major is a reorganization of existing assets.

Johnson asked why they cannot have an Anthropology major?

Crawford said that it is a matter of resources, and is not viable with only two people to run such a major. There is also a syncretic value to a Sociology/Anthropology major, as a stand-alone entity. It is harder, more quantitative survey-based, as well as taking an international, broader approach. It has advantages over either single major; Anthropology would be a separate entity.

Discussion ensued on whether a student could major/minor in both currently. Crabtree said that a student could major in SO, minor in AY, double-counting one course. Crawford said that up until now, a student could take as many courses as desired in AY for a SO major. They have already had students who did the proposed major without its having a name. The combined major is more structured, so that the students tack back and forth between the two disciplines, wanting to do both.

Rosivach commented that in an interdisciplinary major, students normally take a capstone: had they considered such a course? Crawford said that in the third year of outside review a capstone was suggested and the majority want one in SO. Logistics have not been agreed upon. Yes, they would like one for the new major. Lacy noted that a senior graduating in AY and TH has done a capstone with him.

Xie asked if there is a course that bridges AY and SO? Crawford answered that the sociocultural side of AY dovetails with SO. AY is such a big tent, though, including the more scientific side, but we have no faculty member now in that area.

MOTION to endorse the Joint Sociology/Anthropology major (Peduti, Ruffini)

Rosivach wanted to amend the motion to encourage that the curriculum include a capstone. Peduti agreed to the amendment, but Ruffini did not.

AMENDMENT to endorse the proposal for a joint major in Sociology/Anthropology with a strong recommendation that the curriculum include a capstone (Peduti/Garvey)

AMENDMENT passes 8-1-1

Discussion on amended motion:

Rosivach said they have made a good case. Crabtree said the department has worked through the process methodically for several years, with external reviewers and departmental response. The changes have been long in coming. Ruffini said he would love to see an Anthropology major, and this new major is a good step in that direction. Johnson agreed. Lacy noted that this year, with an AY minor for only one semester, there have been large numbers of students, which has led to IDMJ in Anthropology. Xie spoke in favor of a capstone.

MOTION passes 10-0-0.

There was a vote of thanks to Jerelyn Johnson for all of her hard work this year as Chair of the A&SCC.

Meeting adjourned 4:59.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna X. K. Garvey