Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
December 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Library Conference Room
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Approved by the UCC on January 20, 2015

Attending: Ryan Duffy, Steven Bayne, John Miecznikowski (Chair), Ahmed Ebrahim, David McFadden, Terry-Ann Jones, Lynn Babington, Margaret McClure, Michael Pagano, Sally Gerard, Scott Hiller, Shah Etemad, Cheryl Tromley, Laura Nash, Don Gibson, Kathy Nantz, Bruce Bradford, Aaron Perkus, Elizabeth Boquet

The Social Science task force committee members identified from the last meeting include Kathy Nantz, Mike Pagano, Margaret McClure, Terry-Ann Jones and John Miecznikowski. John spoke with Jocelyn Boryczka (Chair, Politics) and Marcie Patton who agreed to serve on that committee. They will be meeting next semester.

Meeting minutes from November 4, 2014 were approved unanimously with one abstention.

Jerelyn Johnson approached the UCC chair about a month ago requesting to present to the UCC on behalf of Disability Support Services (Jennifer Claydon) regarding core language requirements for students with specific language learning disabilities. Jerelyn gave the history of how students with language learning disabilities are advised regarding the core language requirement. Apparently, the practice has been that the core language requirement has been completely waived for these students. Jennifer Claydon did some research and found that in other schools, substitutions are made instead of completely waiving the requirement. If a student cannot learn to speak a foreign language, they are typically required to take two courses on the history, customs, culture, and polices from a specific country or region. Jennifer Claydon would like to start requiring something like this at Fairfield, but Jerelyn Johnson suggested that this be brought to UCC for discussion.

Discussion

Beth Boquet asked how many students were affected. Jerelyn: freshman class =7; sophomore =5; Junior =17; and senior =10 (usually fewer than 20 per class).

Bruce Bradford questioned whether the substituted courses would double count. Jerelyn suggested they should not double count.

A detailed discussion followed regarding the practice in the core of double counting courses.

1. Cheryl Tromley suggested following requirements of core -not minor
2. Beth Boquet thought this was a good idea and this is why we have these goals and requirement to help out student
3. Kathy Nantz thought there should be a policy.
4. Aaron Perkus pointed out that the core is now 60 credits and often restrictive.
5. Laura Nash does not think that double counting is a good idea.
6. Jerelyn Johnson suggested that departments would approve a list of courses and perhaps the list should come before UCC for approval. Jerelyn would like any policy change to be included in the Journal of Record.

7. Scott Hiller suggested that the objective of core should be on outcomes, therefore double counting specific courses should be ok.

8. Bruce Bradford wanted to know how a student would know which courses counted as substitutes.

9. Jerelyn Johnson felt that it is the advisors responsibility to work with the student and for students with disabilities, Jennifer Claydon and staff can help advise the students.

10. David McFadden supported double counting courses to meet core requirements.

11. Cheryl Tromley suggested that we have no double counting in the core - make it simple for students.

12. Kathy Nantz mentioned shouldn’t wait for core changes to move through the process before changing this policy (practice)

13. Aaron Perkus spoke against it as it would be hard for students to finish their degrees and fit into schedules

14. Beth Boquet mentioned that Aaron has a point – student requirements should not have barriers to their degrees

15. Cheryl Tromley suggested that the list of approved course substitutions must offer enough options – we don’t want to put barriers for students on their path to graduation.

16. John Miecznikowski suggested that we go to all departments and make sure they offer enough courses and email chairs about this.

17. David McFadden reiterated that we need to clearly explain to each department what we are looking for in terms of courses on history, culture, customs, etc.

18. Jerelyn Johnson recommended that a list of courses to be approved and the two courses students take should come from the same general geographic region.

Beth Boquet asked Jerelyn what she wanted from UCC today – are we ready to vote on some sort of policy for disability services to follow?

Discussion went back and forth on this issue.

Kathy Nantz suggested that in order to move forward, the UCC would have to see the departmental approved list of course substitutions, yet there is still the issue of double counting courses. John Miecznikowski will email Jennifer Claydon to get more information and this issue will be brought back to UCC with a final recommendation for approval.

The UCC approved the two World Diversity courses brought forward by the WD committee.

Religion Studies 273 - motion to approve by Bruce Bradford and 2nd by David McFadden. This course was approved unanimously.

History 373 - motion to approve by David McFadden and 2nd by Kathy Nantz – 16 approved, 1 opposed
A discussion followed on how to have more courses count toward World Diversity. David McFadden suggested that we need to figure out a way to have more faculty submit courses for approval.

Lynn Babington suggested that it might be time to relook at the requirement for World Diversity approval. We may want to include cultural competence as a requirement.

Cheryl Tromley mentioned that some courses can’t be approved based on the current requirement for nonwestern journals because in some fields, the majority of the journals are Western even though scholars from around the world publish in these journals. This requirement is a barrier.

David McFadden suggested that UCC should ask the World Diversity Committee to review all currently approved courses and to review and revise the requirements for approval.

The next scheduled UCC meeting is February 3, 2015 but John Miecznikowski suggested that we may need to schedule a special meeting before then to approve the health studies minor. He will email the committee if this request comes through.

John Miecznikowski also mentioned that Ron Davidson wants to offer a Humanities seminar during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Kathy Nantz made a motion that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee should establish a subcommittee to consider looking at interdisciplinary models, and report back to the committee in March 2015. This motion was unanimously approved. The following people volunteered to be on this subcommittee - Michael Pagano, Laura Nash, Lynn Babington, and Cheryl Tromley. John Miecznikowski will ask Glenn Sauer to join the group.

Before the meeting adjourned, John Miecznikowski thanked Beth Boquet, Cheryl Tromley, and Scott Hiller for serving on the UCC as one-semester replacements this fall semester.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Kropitis