

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the October 14, 2016 Meeting

Present: Rob Beezer (Secretary), Quinelle Bethelmie, Peggy Burge, David Chiu, Sara Freeman, Kent Hooper, Martin Jackson, Chris Kendall, Alan Krause, Elise Richman (Chair), Holly Roberts, Leslie Saucedo, Jason Struna, Bryan Thines, Justin Tiehen, Benjamin Tromly, Nila Wiese.

Visitors: Jim Evans, Lisa Hutchinson, Robin Jacobson.

RICHMAN called the meeting to order at 4:02. The minutes of the September 23, 2016 meeting were approved after incorporation of two post-meeting logistical changes. There were no announcements.

Working Group 1 Report TIEHEN presented two courses for approval.

GQS 301, *Queer Theory and Queer Politics*, as proposed by Heather White (Religious Studies and Gender and Queer Studies) for the KNOW graduation requirement. **Action:** Approved.

SOAN 303, *Contemporary Immigration, Race, and Citizenship Regimes*, as proposed by Edwin Elias (Sociology and Anthropology) for the KNOW graduation requirement. **Action:** Approved.

A third course was considered, but the proposer was asked to copy some of the justification from the cover letter into the syllabus, and will be reconsidered.

Working Group 2 Report TROMLY presented three courses for approval.

SSI2 124, *Utopia/Dystopia*, as proposed by Bill Breitenbach (History) as a first-year seminar. **Action:** Approved.

SSI2 194, *Castles*, as proposed by Katherine Smith (History) as a first-year seminar. **Action:** Approved.

SSI2 197 Honors, *Postmodernism and the Challenge of Belief*, as proposed by John Wesley (English) and Michael Benveniste as a first-year seminar. **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 3 Report WIESE presented two courses for approval.

CLSC 201, *Ancient Tragedy*, as proposed by Brett Rogers (Classics) for the Artistic Approaches core requirement. **Action:** Approved.

STS 344, *Ecological Knowledge in Historical Perspective*, as proposed by Kristin Johnson (Science, Technology and Society) for the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 4 Report HOOPER presented five courses for approval.

PG 355, *Washington State Legislative Process*, and PG 355, *Comparative State Politics*, as proposed by Robin Jacobson (Politics and Government) as “unusual format” courses.

JACKSON presented some further information and the two requests under consideration.

- The Washington State Legislative Internship Program runs from January through March in “short-session” years so Spring in even-numbered years. The internship has two pieces:
 - 30 hours per week working directly in offices of legislators
 - 10 hours per week of seminars and workshops
- A student accepted into the Legislative Internship Program can earn up to 1.0 unit of Puget Sound academic credit through a Faculty Sponsored Internship Learning Agreement. The 30 hours per week of working in legislator offices more than satisfies the required minimum of 120 hours at the internship site. The Learning Agreement includes readings and writing assignments relating to the internship work.
- PG 354 *Washington State Legislative Process* is a 1.0 unit academic credit course that is built around the 10 hours per week of seminars and workshops. In some sense, the seminars and workshops function as class sessions. The course work consists of a portfolio of material produced for the seminars and workshops, periodic written reflections, on-campus presentations, and a final written project. The course is on a compressed schedule concentrated in the first half of the Spring semester.
- PG 355 *Comparative State Politics* is a 1.0 unit academic credit course that is taught on a compressed schedule in the second half of the Spring semester.
- PG 354 and 355 were approved last year on a pilot basis. There are two requests of the Curriculum Committee:
 - Approve the courses on a permanent basis.
 - Open enrollment in PG 355 to all students. For the Spring 2016 pilot, enrollment was only open to students accepted into the Legislative Internship Program.

PG 355 will carry the condition that it requires “permission of the instructor.” This is to allay concerns that a student not involved in the full Olympia semester will start the semester with three courses, and then transition to a schedule with an additional course, running at double speed, effectively creating a five-unit schedule. Jacobson is also confident that there are textbooks that will assist the entry of students who are not involved with the internship or PG 354. **Action:** Both requests were approved.

CONN XXX (presently REL 301), *Consciousness and the Bourgeoisie*, as proposed by Stuart Smithers (Religious Studies) for the Connections core requirement. **Action:** Approved.

CONN 395, *China and Latin America*, as proposed by Monica DeHart (Sociology and Anthropology) and Emelie Peine (International Political Economy) for the Connections core requirement. **Action:** Approved.

CONN 358, *The Mississippi River*, as proposed by Nancy Bristow (History) for the Connections core requirement and the KNOW graduation requirement. **Action:** Approved.

Intermission The committee took a short break as the Library's public address system reminded patrons that the building would close in a half-hour at 5:00 PM for the start of Fall Break, and those wishing to check-out materials should visit the circulation desk soon.

Charges from the Faculty Senate In her role as the committee's liaison to the Faculty Senate, Professor Robin Jacobson presented two new charges, outside of the usual ongoing charges, along with some background information on each. These are from the Faculty Senate's September 26, 2016 meeting.

Spring Calendar The Curriculum Committee studied the equalization of the number of days of instruction in the Fall and Spring semesters, narrowing the options to two. The options are: ending the spring semester one week early or starting the spring semester one week early and ending two weeks earlier. The Faculty Senate requests further consideration and study of these two options. Specifically, "Investigate and report on potential impacts and opportunities of options A and B identified by the Curriculum Committee last year to equalize teaching days in Fall and Spring semester."

Unit Limits While part of ongoing charges, the Faculty Senate would like to encourage attention to the question of limits on the number of units required for majors and minors. Specifically, "Create guidelines for unit limits for majors to fit existing practices, core curriculum, and educational goals."

Artistic Approaches Core Review Professor Jim Evans and BURGE presented the final report of this review, which was held over from last year so that student survey data could be considered. Evans highlighted four findings from the report:

- Class sizes for these courses have increased to a point where the character of the classroom experience is impacted.
- Both students and faculty expressed a desire for a greater variety of course offerings, with photography cited as one possible addition.
- It is difficult for faculty to navigate the various funding mechanisms for transporting students to museums and performances, in addition to paying for admission. This is a question of both procedure and the total amount of money available. For example, some of these funds are from the academic budget, but managed by the Dean of Students.
- Only 56% of seniors responding to the Senior Survey agreed or strongly agreed that, through their Artistic Approaches core course, they are able to reflect critically about art and the creative process.

The need for a simpler and more generous funding regime generated the most discussion. JACKSON volunteered to present the matter to the Dean of the University. Evans suggested, and JACKSON agreed, that sending a copy of the final report to all of the faculty teaching in this area would be a good procedure to begin.

The motion to adjourn was made by RICHMAN, professor of Art, at 4:54 P.M. The next meeting will be October 21, 2016 at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer