

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the December 2, 2016 Meeting

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

Visitor: Lisa Hutchinson.

RICHMAN called the meeting to order at 3:59 in the McCormick Room. The minutes of the November 18, 2016 meeting were approved with the addition of an attribution for one speaker.

Announcements RICHMAN made the following announcements:

- The move to a seven-year departmental review cycle is now before the Board of Trustees for final approval.
- It was decided that meetings during the Spring 2017 semester will be at 3 P.M. on Fridays. Exact dates will be forthcoming.

Working Group 1 Report TIEHEN reported that the Staff Senate will meet December 14 so his group expects some response on the proposed Spring calendar changes.

Working Group 2 Report TROMLY reported finalizing the survey questions for their review of the Humanistic Approaches core area. One course proposal was brought forward, which had occasioned some discussions with the proposer.

SS12 113, *Digital Methods in the Study of Literature*, as proposed by Tim Lulofs (Humanities/Honors/English) as a first-year seminar. **Action:** Approved.

Working Group 3 Report In the absence of WIESE, KENDALL reported that they are continuing discussions with the Philosophy Department on their departmental review. They will review syllabi in the spring, in addition to starting the Social Sciences Approaches core review.

Working Group 4 Report HOOPER reported that they are still waiting for a response from the Politics and Government Department as part of their departmental review.

A meeting about the Spring calendar change with staff from Alumni and Parent Relations, and other administrators, went well. They were concerned about a decrease in the time to conduct their usual activities, and so seemed to prefer Option D (intersperse days).

Spring Calendar Study In response to a meeting with our Faculty Senate liaison, Robin Jacobson, RICHMAN suggested that the committee should formally decide to expand the options under consideration beyond those included in the charge from the Faculty Senate. SAUCEDO moved that the committee include Option D (in additions to Options A and B) as part of our study of changes to the Spring calendar. **Action:** Passed, by a clear majority of hands raised.

Unit Limits on Majors and Minors RICHMAN distributed a handout including the relevant portion of the Curriculum Statement and the text of review question #3, with some key terms highlighted. A long discussion ensued about major fields, major requirements, joint departments, interdisciplinary majors, the nature of a liberal arts education, the choice of the number 9 as the unit limit for the major field, and the observation that in the event a student apply 2 activity units to graduation, a third of the remaining academic units would number 10.

There was an attempt at the end of the hour to define a **major field** with JACKSON making the suggestion that it coincide with the name of the relevant major, though this would be problematic for interdisciplinary majors.

RICHMAN, Professor of Art, adjourned the meeting at 5:02 P.M. The next meeting will take place early in the Spring semester.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Beezer