

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the Sep 29, 2017 Meeting

Present: Martin Jackson, Michael Pastore, Jason Struna, Bryan Thines, Matt Fergoda, Chris Kendall, Peggy Burge, Holly Roberts, Leslie Saucedo, Gary McCall, Benjamin Tromly, Nila Wiese, Julia Looper, Jonathan Stockdale, Hannah Houser, Bill Barry, and David Chiu.

Visitors: Robin Jacobson (Senate Liaison) and Seth Weinberger.

TROMLY calls meeting to order at 12:02.

The minutes of the Sep 12, 2017 meeting were approved without changes.

TROMLY began discussion on the proposed procedure for reviewing core and KNOW course proposals. JACKSON added that “leads” on the advisory group should be faculty members. It was also clarified that the proposed procedure is a pilot for Fall 2017 and would be revisited in the following terms. KENDALL suggested adding the following language to the proposed procedure (**shown in bold below**) to avoid logistic errors:

- “If other advisory group members do not have further questions, the lead and the Associate Dean can approve the course.” → “If other advisory group members do not have further questions, the lead and the Associate Dean can approve the course, **and report this decision to the entire Curriculum Committee.**”
- “Any member of the committee can call for discussion by the full committee at that meeting. In the absence of a call for discussion, the approval is considered final” → “Any member of the committee can call for discussion by the full committee at that meeting. In the absence of a call for discussion, the approval is considered final **and reported to the faculty member proposing the course and to the university community.**”

Action: Approved to adopt proposed procedure (with changes to the language).

TROMLY announced the dates of all future meetings, which will alternate between Tuesdays and Fridays so that all members can participate.

Action: Approved The Functions of the Associate Deans’ Office in Curricular Matters.

TROMLY and JACKSON to meet with the Committee on Diversity to determine what items to bring to the committee.

Discussion on FEPPS: Visitors JACOBSON and WEINBERGER led the discussion on the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) proposal. FEPPS provides higher ed-

ucation to women at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. Currently, an A.A. degree can be obtained through Tacoma Community College, but there currently lacks mechanism for women to continue their education to obtain a bachelor's degree. WEINBERGER clarified that they were not currently asking for CC's endorsement of FEPPS, but rather a statement on its *viability* as a major at Puget Sound, *i.e.*, whether it would meet the standards of the curriculum.

JACOBSON stated that they had adopted the CC's suggestion from last year to frame FEPPS as a contract major, rather than to request an exception for major requirements.

BARRY noted a typo in the FEPPS proposal: first bullet point ("Seminar in Social Inquiry" → "Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry").

STOCKDALE asked for clarification on Brad Tomhave's concern from last year that the program sounds more like a separate degree than a major. JACOBSON and WEINBERGER stated that a B.A. is a known degree, whereas a Bachelor in Liberal Studies (BLS) would be obscure, and may affect the graduates' chances of employment or continuing education. WIESE noted that there may be a question of equal access to a BLS degree for all students, but that a Liberal Studies major with closed access *would* be compatible with current programs, like the Business Leadership Program (BLP). JACKSON added that students who did not get admitted into BLP still have other major options, but FEPPS students would not.

MCCALL wondered if there was a perception that the Liberal Studies major would be less rigorous, to which JACOBSON and WEINBERGER responded that the curriculum would be taught rigorously, and that FEPPS courses have not deviated much from what they currently teach students at Puget Sound.

BARRY brought up the issue of staffing. JACOBSON replied that staffing would not be entirely made up of Puget Sound faculty. Instructors used at the A.A. level are PhDs or graduate students from UW. We would serve as a housing function, providing opportunities for Puget Sound students to work in a prison facility.

TROMLY expressed concern about one faculty member teaching the capstone. JACOBSON responded that students should be self-directed at that point, as they would be grounded via the theme and bridge course.

JACKSON asked about timeline, and JACOBSON said that they aim to bring the proposal to the full faculty before the end of term.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55.

Minutes prepared and submitted by David Chiu.