

Curriculum Committee

Minutes of the October 20, 2017 Meeting

Present: Benjamin Tromly, Martin Jackson, David Chiu, Bill Barry, Jonathan Stockdale, Peggy Burge, Bryan Thines, Matt Fergoda, Hannah Houser, Eric Orlin, Chris Kendall, Jason Struna, Gary McCall, Leslie Saucedo, Julie Christoph.

TROMLY called the meeting to order at 12:02pm in the McCormick Room.

The minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting were approved by unanimous consent after minor clarifications.

Course Approvals: TROMLY opened discussion on advisory groups' recommended course approvals. SAUCEDO expressed concern that Emelie Peine and Peter Wimberger's proposed new course CONN 307 *Hooch: The Natural and Social Science of Liquor* limited enrollment to students 21 and older, and wondered whether younger students might not benefit from a rigorous academic exposure to hooch (minus the experiential element). JACKSON noted that the *Idea of Wine* course provided a precedent for an age-based enrollment restriction. STOCKDALE pointed out that limitation of enrollment by population raised an important curricular issue, and inquired as to whether as a general policy this type of restriction should be avoided. CHRISTOPH and BARRY suggested that the Dean of Students might want to weigh in on the issue, and JACKSON responded that the Dean was aware of the course and the age limitation. TROMLY suggested that the course be approved, with MCCALL agreeing that his Connections advisory group would then investigate the possibility of listing this course as open to students under 21 with instructor permission.

The Curriculum Committee (the "Committee") then moved to a brief but lively discussion of the use of exclamatory punctuation in course titles. BURGE noted and JACKSON concurred that precedent existed for use of both the exclamation point and the question mark. The group agreed that use of the exclamation point would be acceptable, but that any attempt to introduce emoji into a course title must be rejected, full stop.

The Committee approved by unanimous consent the following courses:

- CONN 307 *Hooch: The Natural and Social Science of Liquor*, Emelie Peine and Peter Wimberger: new Connections course
- SSI2 117 *Coming Out! The Gay Liberation Movement*, Terry Beck: new SSI2 course
- SSI2 179 *Casting Shadows, Casting Light: A Russian Mystery*, Ann Putnam: new SSI2 course

FEPPS Liberal Studies Major: TROMLY moved discussion to the Committee's draft letter endorsing the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) proposal. JACKSON suggested that the language relating to high-quality education be revised to more accurately reflect the Committee's focus on instruction, rather than instructors. MCCALL noted that the Professional Standards Committee is appropriately focused on the quality of instructors, and BARRY and JACKSON reminded the Committee that the administration is attuned to staffing needs.

ORLIN suggested that these concerns be addressed by incorporating the following language into the letter:

“Based on extensive discussions, we are convinced that the FEPPS leadership is attentive to the quality of instruction carried out by UPS faculty and the PhDs in the area, and we are convinced that the instruction is of a high quality.”

Based on this discussion TROMLY clarified that the Committee is satisfied with the proposed curriculum, and that the sense of the room was that no future Curriculum Committee recommendation would be required after submitting the revised endorsement letter to the Faculty Senate.

JACKSON asked that the wordsmiths avoid incorrectly characterizing the new Liberal Studies major as a “degree program,” as the major will be offered within the existing Bachelor of Arts degree. TROMLY, STRUNA, and KENDALL affirmed that they would incorporate these clarifying revisions.

TROMLY called the vote and the Committee by voice vote unanimously approved the revised recommendation letter to the Faculty Senate.

SSI Core Area Review: TROMLY began a discussion of how the Committee might proceed with the SSI core area review. In particular, he noted that the Committee had not set up working groups this term. He further noted that this might be an opportunity to connect the review to Faculty Senate Charge 3, which asked the Committee to “Explore how the Curriculum Committee can more actively facilitate curricular development in the core curriculum.”

SAUCEDO suggested that the importance of the core suggests all Committee members might be involved in the review. KENDALL noted that the Committee previously indicated that we would like to make core reviews more forward-looking, in which case it might make sense to include more members of the Committee. CHRISTOPH suggested that ongoing faculty involvement outside the Committee would be of particular importance in core reviews.

No action was taken. TROMLY said that he would gather more information on potential models to facilitate further discussion at the next meeting.

TROMLY adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, at 3:00pm in the McCormick Room.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Chris Kendall.