

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 20, 2012

Members Present: Jane Carlin, Brad Dillman, Brad Reich, Lisa Ferrari, Alison Hale, Lisa Hutchinson, Katie Mihalovich, Jonathan Stockdale, Brad Tomhave, Barbara Warren, Carolyn Weisz, Randy Worland, Steven Zopfi

The meeting was convened by Barbara Warren, chair, at 8:03.

Approval of Minutes:

- Warren reports that Hutchinson will distribute minutes from meeting electronically later in the week and suggests that we postpone approval until we have read the minutes
- Stockdale questioned the wording of p. 2, 5b. of minutes
- Warren questioned wording of p. 1. working group 1 report
- Committee tabled discussion until minutes could be reviewed by everyone

Working Group Reports:

Working Group 1

- Humanities Core review is in process. WG will have something to report by May 3rd

Working Group 2

- Subcommittee is meeting to discuss 1st year seminars. The subcommittee also includes Carlin

Working Group 3

- Review of dual-degree program in Engineering is in progress

Working Group 4

- Nothing to report

Working Group 5

- Nothing to report

Senate Charges

A. Diversity

- o Ferrari reports that further discussion awaits pending discussion by CC of recommendations by the Diversity Office on rewording of review questions regarding diversity in the curriculum. After that, the subcommittee will consult with Ellen Peters before a draft will go out to Department Heads for review
- o Warren asks if this a matter for the whole CC

- After discussion it was agreed that the working groups will take up the issue and Ferrari will coordinate
- B. ASC/Foreign Language requirement
 - Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday and report to the CC at the next meeting
- C. Semester Length
 - Dillman notes that this is a perennial issue and wonders if the faculty will ever reach consensus as it effects summer session, meal plans, housing, conference planning, and other financial matters
 - Stockdale asks whether CC reviewed the matter when an extra travel day before Thanksgiving was approved
 - Tomhave noted that he had no recollection that the matter was ever taken up
 - After discussion Dillman volunteered to be part of a subcommittee to discuss the charge and asked for clarification as to exactly what the subcommittee should do
 - Ferrari suggested the subcommittee should propose principles for making a decision about semester length and suggested that part of the work should include a cost-benefit analysis
 - Dillman noted that the subcommittee had neither the time or the expertise to fully research the area before the end of the semester
 - Reich noted that nobody had come up with anything better so far and suggested that we recommend forming an ad-hoc committee instead of a subcommittee
 - Carlin suggested that the CC might want to endorse equalizing the Fall and Spring semesters in principle but that it would be up to a new CC to come up with the wording
 - Warren asked the current system of different semester lengths effected pricing
 - Carlin said she believed there was no difference
 - Dillman asked would changing the length of one of the semesters have a detrimental impact on the curriculum and wondered if the charge should be sent back to the senate to be deliberated on
 - Tomhave suggested that we look at the # of M, T, W... as a guide to equalizing the semesters
 - Weisz asked if this takes into account holidays
 - Tomhave said yes
 - Hale wondered if we can't just keep the current system
 - Dillman stated that on principle, he felt the semesters should be the same length so that the same syllabus for repeat courses can be used and so that students would not be so burned out in the Spring
 - Zopfi noted that shortening the Spring semester might have a deleterious effect on the music program by providing less time for student recitals and performances
 - Warren remembered that there had been discussion about reserving a day in the Spring for conferences, student performances
 - Ferrari reported that is not in place this year
 - Hutchinson said a group went to Whitman to examine their process and that discussion was still ongoing

- Weisz noted that there are more M in the spring semester
- Stockdale suggested that we table discussion until the ongoing discussion of adding a conference day is complete
- **M/S/** - discussion to postpone discussion about adding a conference day until further discussion regarding the data from Whitman is analyzed. Dillman suggested motion amended to postpone discussion of entire semester length issue as well until next year
M/S/P

Diversity Charge Revisited

- **M/S/P** to revisit diversity charge
- Ferrari encouraged CC to make recommendations regarding language of diversity in curriculum reviews
- CC discussion on language of diversity question and proposed changes
- Worland wondered if diversity question was more applicable to recruitment than curriculum
- Weisz said both as questions of student identity and pedagogical approaches can effect curriculum and suggested that even raising awareness of the issue can have a beneficial effect
- Carlin wondered if this process should involve the entire curriculum not just the review process and wondered what type of support can be given to academic units to help them with these discussions
- Ferrari noted that this discussion was consistent with our charge and that there were many resources across campus to help academic units with diversity issues
- Stockdale thought it would be appropriate for the CC to raise the profile of these resources
- Weisz thought that just by having these discussions there will be more interest in utilizing these resources
- Hale wondered if we should also create resources for teaching tools to help with diversity in the classroom
- Weisz thought that this was not CC purview and that our role was to have discussions and check to see if departments addressed the issued in their curriculum reviews
- Warren wondered who wrote the initial question for diversity in curriculum reviews
- Weisz thought we might need to wordsmith the question so that application to recruitment is more obvious

M/S/P to continue discussion at the next meeting

M/S/P to adjourn 9:03

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Zopfi