

Minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010

Members present: Roger Allen, Terry Beck, Derek Buescher (chair), Alison Tracy Hale, Alisa Kessel, Paul Loeb, Amanda Mifflin, Emelie Peine, Brad Reich (acting secretary), Jonathan Stockdale, Brad Tomahve, Randy Worland, Alec Wrolson, Steven Zopfi.

Call to order: Derek Buescher 9:04 a.m..

Approval of minutes of Nov. 10, 2010: M/S/P (unanimous).

**Working Group Reports:**

Group 1 – “Nothing to Report.”

Group 2 – “Working on Proposals.” This was later clarified to the acting secretary as “Working on a proposal.”

Group 3 – Currently reviewing the Psychology Review. It has been sent back for further departmental comments.

Group 4 –

**M/S/P (unanimous)** to accept the Center for Writing, Learning, and Teaching (“CWLT”) Review. This included discussion about the assistance and offerings by the Center.

**M/S/P (unanimous)** to accept the Science, Technology, and Society (“STS”) Review.

Group presented the “Assessment of Independent study policy” (emailed previously to committee members). The group offered to take up further work but requested guidance. The committee had discussion that eventually focused on the five proposed recommendations. It was agreed that the group would undertake further efforts on each of the first four. Discussion of the fifth was tabled due to time.

Summary of discussion of each recommendation (added after the meeting) regarding Independent Study (IS):

1: The CC decided the working group should craft language to suggest that a unit of academic credit typically amounts to 150 hours of work (or 10 hours/week). We will not require students and teachers to prove that the workload amounts to this (just as we don’t for regular courses) but we will note it as an expectation. The working group needs to craft some language, and then make sure that the policy is

uniform across all documents (including Bulletin copy, the formal IS policy online and on paper, and the contract itself).

2. The CC accepted the recommendations to augment the existing contract form. Brad said that he will have the Registrar's office work on this. Alisa will confer with Brad to clarify what the Registrar's office staff will complete.

3: The CC has decided to remove the P/F option from the contract. Students are still allowed to take IS P/F, but they will not signify this on the contract (this aligns the IS policy with the existing policy of allowing students to enroll anonymously for P/F courses). We will include on the contract some language, directed toward faculty, that remind them that they can, nevertheless, set the P/F limit on the IS course to zero, effectively precluding students from taking it P/F if they wish.

4: The CC has asked us to revise the self-study guide for 5 year curricular reviews to include an item about IS.

5: The CC will discuss the thesis/independent study issue at an upcoming meeting.

#### Group 5 –

**M/S/P (unanimous with Kessel abstaining)** Politics and Government (“P&G”) Review. This included brief discussion of both procedural history and the issues of a) “thesis/field paper” assessment devices and b) the language option for some of the subfields. The group explained that the department was aware of some potential issues with these pieces going forward, but did not view them as impediments to acceptance at this time.

Meeting adjourned – 9:54\*.

#### Additional Notes:

1. The procedural materials for working group 4 were requested by the acting secretary. He emailed requesting Alisa Kessel forward to Alyce DeMarais the accepted Reviews for CWLT and STS.

2. The procedural materials for the P&G Review were sent by hard copy to Alyce DeMarais by the acting secretary.

\* The acting secretary has no record of a formal motion to adjourn. I apologize if such omission is my error. If you have been in constant session since, I apologize for my absence.