

## Curriculum Committee Minutes

March 11, 2015

Committee members attending: Richard Anderson-Connolly, Rob Beezer, Luc Boisvert, Nancy Bristow, Gwynne Brown, Jane Carlin, Jim Evans, Lisa Ferrari, Sara Freeman, Lisa Johnson, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Alan Krause, Julia Looper, Janet Marcavage, Tim Pogar, Elise Richman, Brett Rogers, Allison Simmons, Brad Tomhave.

Also attending: Lisa Hutchinson

**1) Call to Order** at 8:00 a.m.

**2) Remarks from the Chair**

Freeman wished Pogar good luck in his run for ASUPS office.

**3) M/S/P to approve the minutes from the 3/4/15 CC meeting** with two corrections.

**4) Working Group Reports**

**WG1:** Bristow reported that the WG will meet today.

**WG2:** Kontogeorgopoulos said that the WG will meet tomorrow to go over the survey about the core that will be distributed to the faculty. This survey was delayed because Institutional Research was busy with the Campus Climate Survey. The WG sent its response to AFAM on Monday. Kontogeorgopoulos thanked Bristow and WG1 for taking on the BLP review, which was one thing too many for WG2 to manage.

**WG3:** Looper reported that the WG met Friday and is moving forward on the Math Approaches and SOAN reviews. She brought forward two core courses for approval:

**M/S/P (1 abstention) to approve CONN 3xx, History of the United States in the 1960s (Bristow) for Connections Core.**

**M/S/P to approve ALP 225, Cinematic Adaptations of Traditional Chinese Literature (Lee) for Humanistic Approaches Core.**

**WG4:** Rogers brought forward a course for approval.

**M/S/P to approve SSI1 160, Dilemmas of Statecraft (Erickson).**

Rogers reported that the WG will be ready to bring the Theatre Arts review to the CC soon. The WG will meet after the current meeting to discuss the BMB review, and will start on the Natural Sciences Core review after break.

## 5) Old Business: ENVR Major

Kontogeorgopoulos noted that in the motion, it should have said “Environmental Policy and Decision Making,” not “Planning.” He said that this motion, which was a very generic approval of the ENVR major, is withdrawn. A new motion is being brought forward to create a major in EPDM, abbreviated ENVR. It would require 8 units plus an experiential component. It would have to be a second major, and up to four courses could double-count. The current ENVR is unchanged by this motion, but is included as well.

Kontogeorgopoulos explained that this motion is more straightforward than the first. It creates a major with certain requirements, but not a new category of major. Dan Sherman, one of the proposers, says that a strength of the current ENVR minor is that it brings students from a wide variety of majors into the program, and the proposers want this to be the case with the ENVR as well; that is why they are proposing a major that needs to be done in combination with a first major. This might or might not work for other interdisciplinary programs; if other programs want to require a primary major as well, they can make their own case. The ENVR proposers do not want to make any case but their own; they are not trying to create a new category.

If approved, the ENVR major would be implemented in Fall 2016, which would give EPDM time this year and next to start the advising process for potentially interested students.

### **M/S to approve the motion included as Appendix 1.**

In discussion, members expressed the following:

- WG 4 rocks at communication.
- Despite the new motion, the ENVR major *would* create a new category, since no other major carries having another major as a prerequisite. Explicitly creating a new category for this would help to ensure that no student would fail to realize that a first major is required.
- Students can get confused about anything, and creating a new category would not necessarily dispel anybody’s confusion. It’s up to students and advisors to be clear about requirements.
- Students are not as easily confused about what is required as all that, especially if they care—as many apparently do, when it comes to environmental studies. They are capable of reading the Bulletin and talking to advisors.
- New category or not, this is still a major that requires a student to spend 18 units on courses for their majors. This is a liberal arts college. The structural and ethical implications of approving such a major are significant.
- The CC minutes reflect the many reasons why EPDM’s proposal requires a double major. This was a very fully considered decision on the proposers’ part, and future generations can understand exactly why they made it.
- ENVR may well be a one-off thing; it seems unlikely that several emphases are going to transition into majors that require double-majoring.
- It only makes sense for an interdisciplinary major to require that students double major.

- The ENVR major (1) is, according to the proposers themselves, not a distinct major / discipline (with its own distinctive epistemology), even though it is emerging, and (2) has been designed to help students develop skills in policy—i.e., with a clear, professional outcome—such that it doesn't quite fit into traditional definitions of a liberal arts major (which is not the same as a professional degree). Our definition of "liberal arts" continues to be loosey goosey.
- How much double-counting should be allowed?
  - The proposers are open to any, all, or no double-counting being allowed.
  - Having unlimited double-counting could threaten the integrity of a major, with one set of courses comprising the majority of two purportedly separate majors.
  - 4 units of double-counting could lead to a second major requiring only 4 additional courses—in essence, this would be a minor, not a second major.
  - 4 units of double-counting helps to alleviate the concern about students spending 18 units on their majors. We have here two worthy ideals bumping up against each other: integrity of the major vs. integrity of liberal arts education.
  - In favor of 4 units: If a student has a 9-unit first major, an 8-unit ENVR major, needs 8 units for the core, and 2 units for FL, this leaves only 5 units left for exploration, which seems to violate the liberal arts ideal.
  - There would virtually always be more overlap than that.
  - If students choose to double- or triple-major, they are choosing to do that; the fact that these choices would limit students' ability to take all the electives they want is not a good argument against offering those majors.
  - Upon canvassing, members expressed a clear but not unanimous preference for allowing 2 units to be double-counted.
  - Although ENVR wouldn't be highly double-countable, given the nature of its courses, future interdisciplinary majors might have more overlapping courses.
  - Majors currently on the books typically allow only 1 or 2 units to be double-counted. So regardless of how many double-counts ENVR or another future such interdisciplinary second major would allow, students would be limited by their first major's policies.
  - The fact that current majors do or don't allow something doesn't mean that these things can't change in the future—and sometimes such changes are made with little fanfare by the Associate Deans.
  - Allowing ENVR to allow 2 units of double counting would create a good precedent; future interdisciplinary majors would have to make a case for why they wanted to allow more than that.
  - A 4-unit maximum could potentially facilitate an intentional interdisciplinary coordination with the primary major, which could work toward an active relationship between the two majors. It would also ameliorate the possible credit burden that the experiential requirement could create.

**M/S/P to amend item 4 (reflected in Appendix 1).**

- It's OK to go forward with the motion and approve the ENVR major, but whether or not we say formally that we're creating a new category, we are. Beyond this particular proposal, we need to figure out how to handle this in the future.

- Kontogeorgopoulos will write up something explaining the reasons for ENVR's proposal and why the CC approved it, to guide future proposers and CCs.
- We also need to communicate to those associated with current interdisciplinary emphases that there is now such a thing as an interdisciplinary major that requires a primary major.
- Wording issues in the motion: "completed" vs. "declared" vs. "awarded," "until" vs. "unless." Ultimately this motion isn't for public use, so it can still be wordsmithed for maximum clarity.

Freeman reminded CC members that a forum is scheduled for Tuesday 3/24 at 5 p.m. in Trimble Forum, and that will be a good first public airing of the creation of this special new major and its implications for other interdisciplinary programs. We can also add this to a further agenda. Freeman emphasized that the CC sees this new (informal) category as applicable only to interdisciplinary programs.

**The motion to create an ENVR major (Appendix 1) passes** unanimously, albeit with a few members having departed.

**6) M/S/P to adjourn, 8:52 p.m.**

Submitted by Gwynne Brown

## Appendix 1:

### MOTION (including amendments from CC meeting 3/11/15)

The Curriculum Committee approves the creation of a major in Environmental Policy and Decision Making (abbreviated as “ENVR”).

#### Requirements for the Major

1. Completion of the following eight units:
  - a. ENVR 101
  - b. ENVR 201
  - c. ENVR 202 (0.5 units)
  - d. ENVR 203 (0.5 units)
  - e. ENVR 400
  - f. A minimum of one upper division policy elective
  - g. Three additional upper division ENVR electives
2. Completion of an experiential education requirement, to be approved by the program director. Examples of experiential education include, but are not limited to, the following: a study-abroad experience, the field school in conservation development (e.g., ENVR 342A), a summer research experience, an environmentally related internship, an ENVR block semester program (e.g., Southwest Semester), and the Food Systems Northwest summer course (ENVR 360).
3. The ENVR major is a secondary major that can be chosen only after a primary major is chosen. An ENVR major cannot be completed unless a primary major in another department or program is also completed.
4. ~~Up to four courses used to meet the requirements of the ENVR major may also be used to satisfy the core curriculum, or the requirements of another major or minor.~~ A maximum of two courses used to meet the requirements of the ENVR major may be used to satisfy the core curriculum, the requirements of another major, or the requirements of a minor.

#### Requirements for the Minor

1. Completion of the following five units:
  - a. ENVR 101
  - b. ENVR 400
  - c. A minimum of one upper division policy elective
  - d. Two additional upper division ENVR electives