

**Curriculum Committee Minutes
March 24, 1999**

Present: Barnett, Cannon, Hooper, Kirkpatrick, Livingston, Mehlhaff (Chair), Pinzino, Stevens, Warning, Bartanen, Tomhave, Washburn
Absent: Goleeke, Grunberg, Kline, Proehl, Sugimoto, Heavner

Mehlhaff began the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes. **Stevens M/S/P approval of the minutes for the meeting of 10 March 1999.**

Subcommittees. Mehlhaff announced the formation of a new subcommittee to explore the proposal for a major in Classics; the program in Classics currently offers a minor only.

Classics major: Cannon, Livingston, Proehl (Chair).

ACADEMIC CALENDAR. Discussion of the academic calendar continued following Mehlhaff's inquiry as to whether the committee wishes to proceed toward an alternative calendar, in which case we would appoint a subcommittee to draft a proposal. As agreed at the conclusion of the preceding discussion, on 3 March 1999, Washburn distributed a document posing options for the fall calendar; option 3 is the current calendar. Washburn summarized what she sees as the committee's central concern about the fall calendar, namely, having more class days after the Thanksgiving break. Other concerns are whether the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week should be part of the break, whether we might have a week-long fall break in mid-October, whether classes would occur on Labor Day, and whether we should start the fall semester earlier.

The outcome of discussion was the creation of a subcommittee in response to Mehlhaff's call for volunteers and appointment of the following colleagues:

Academic Calendar: Hooper, Kirkpatrick, Livingston, Pinzino (Chair), Tomhave

Discussion leading to this outcome included the revisitation of some issues that surfaced in the previous discussion of the fall calendar, observations of the features of options 1 and 2, a withdrawn motion to approve option 1, and consideration of to what extent to seek out campus sentiment on changing the fall calendar (or the entire academic calendar). Livingston's account of information gathered informally in conversation with students and faculty colleagues suggests that asking particular questions (for example, should classes occur on Labor Day? or should we include a weekend in the final-exam period?) is preferable to asking a broad general question about changing the calendar.

STANDARDS FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS. Mehlhaff announced that this subject will be an agenda item for the meeting of 31 March 1999 and distributed copies of Cannon's memorandum proposing the committee's consideration of the subject. Cannon explained that the curricular review of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, as well as the President's "Charting the Future" report of 25 February 1999, prompted this proposal. Cannon identified two specific issues: (1) When is an interest in interdisciplinary studies adequate to introduce a new major (and, by extension, do we want to limit the number of majors offered by the University)? (2) What constraints and standards should govern an interdisciplinary major? Mehlhaff stated that this subject will be the starting place for the next meeting.

At 6:00 p.m. Stevens M/S/"P" that we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne W. Barnett
28 March 1999
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