

Curriculum Committee Minutes
April 14, 1999

Present: Barnett, Cannon, Hooper, Kirkpatrick, Livingston, Mehlhaff (Chair), Proehl, Stevens, Sugimoto, Bartanen, Washburn, Tomhave

Absent: Goleeke, Grunberg, Kline, Pinzino, Warning, Heavner

Mehlhaff began the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Minutes. **Kirkpatrick M/S/P approval of the minutes for the meeting of 7 April 1999 as posted.**

STANDARDS FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS. The committee resumed discussion of this subject by focusing on the proposed revision, distributed by Washburn, of the "Self-study Guide" for departmental reviews. Bartanen explained that some editorial changes serve the reaccreditation review process of which departmental reviews are a part; otherwise the changes accommodate interdisciplinary programs along lines developed in earlier discussion by the committee.

ACTION: Cannon M/S/P approval of the proposed revision as the new "Self-study Guide."

In discussion of the motion Tomhave asked about the phrase "assuring the quality and integrity of the University's academic programs" at the end of the paragraph on the "Purpose" of five-year reviews; Stevens and others defended this and other language as appropriate. Hooper questioned the necessity of the inquiry in Review Question #4B (new) about the selection of the advisory committee for an interdisciplinary program or an interdisciplinary major within a department. Several committee members, including Washburn, Bartanen, Barnett, and Cannon, commented on the importance of the selection process. Barnett M/S/F to call the question, and discussion continued with attention to particular wording to clarify the intent of the committee to allow for special qualities of an interdisciplinary major.

APPROVAL OF CORE COURSES BY THE ASSOCIATE DEAN DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. Mehlhaff explained that this matter was before the committee in spring 1998, and the committee decided not to take any action. Washburn distributed a handout with relevant passages from committee minutes for 1997-98 (29 January, 19 February, and 5 March 1998). Mehlhaff stated that the committee on this occasion can either do nothing or can take action. Mehlhaff also reminded that last year "trust" of the Associate Academic Dean was *not* an issue; rather, the committee focused on whether to grant additional responsibility to the Associate Dean in the curriculum approval process. Note: This matter again is before the committee by direction of the Faculty Senate at the beginning of this academic year.

In response to Kirkpatrick's inquiry, Bartanen said that in current practice *no* process exists for approval of core courses over the summer and added that this matter arose in connection with arranging teaching programs for incoming tenure-line faculty. Stevens asked about existing core courses taught by adjunct faculty, and Bartanen affirmed that such courses are available because a course would already have approval for the core.

Mehlhaff offered the view that fundamentally this matter is "an efficiency issue," but we have to deal with the possibility that becoming efficient might jeopardize some underlying values in our approach to the core curriculum. Stevens expressed a preference for conservatism; a new core course should have review by a subcommittee.

The committee reached consensus summarized by Mehlhaff: We will report that we studied the matter but did not take action. Toward the moment of consensus Cannon pointed out that the faculty currently is in the midst of discussion about changes in the core curriculum; this is not the time for a change in the method of core-course approval. Hooper said that he

would be comfortable with the Associate Dean's approval of courses during the summer; Barnett wondered if summer approval by the Dean would lead to approval by the Dean at all times, not just in the summer. Proehl expressed a preference for maintaining current procedures, and Bartanen stated that we seem to have come to the same moment as we did at the end of the discussion on 5 March 1999: "We should do more work to match faculty with existing core courses."

At 5:47 p.m. Stevens M/S/P that we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne W. Barnett
19 April 1999
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