

## **Curriculum Committee Minutes December 2, 1998**

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

At 5:05 p.m. Mehlhaff started the meeting.

*Minutes.* **Hooper M/S/P approval of the minutes for the meeting of 18 November 1998.**

### *Announcements.*

1. Mehlhaff announced that the Faculty Senate did not get to discussion of the committee's **Core Assessment Plan** at the last Senate meeting and thus postponed the discussion until the Senate meeting of Monday, 7 December 1998. Mehlhaff and Bartanen will attend this Senate meeting; other members of the committee are welcome to join them. Copies of the version of the Plan submitted to the Senate will come to members of the committee.
2. Mehlhaff reported that just prior to the Thanksgiving break he received several telephone calls from faculty colleagues who expressed unhappiness about the academic calendar with reference to Thanksgiving and suggested the need for an extended Thanksgiving break. Mehlhaff said that during the coming spring semester a re-thinking of the academic calendar will be on the committee's agenda. Committee members can initiate discussion of this matter but likely will seek wider faculty views by way of an open forum.
3. In response to Goleeke's inquiry about the necessity of a meeting next week, which will be on Wednesday, 9 December, the last day of classes, Mehlhaff said that probably we will need to meet. Important business could reach completion prior to the long break until the first committee meeting in the spring.

### *Subcommittees.*

**SOCIETY.** Hooper reported on the subcommittee's consideration of Economics 170 - Principles of Economics, a new course that will combine and replace Economics 175 and 176 as part of the revised Economics curriculum. Read against the core guidelines, the course proposal led to the subcommittee's consensus that everything "looked great."

**ACTION: Hooper M/S/P acceptance of Economics 170 - Principles of Economics as a Society core course.** Note: This motion passed with one ABSTENTION (Warning).

[This action completes the Economics curricular review as favorably acted upon at the committee meeting of 28 October 1998.]

**SPECIAL INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJOR (SIM).** Kirkpatrick distributed copies of a full account of the subcommittee's consideration of a SIM proposal submitted by Erin Harold, presently a first-semester junior, who refined the proposal in response to requests made by the subcommittee. Bartanen distributed copies of a statement explaining the origins and current status of the SIM program, approved by the Curriculum Committee in spring 1997.

Kirkpatrick noted that the relatively long written report of the subcommittee is appropriate because each SIM sets a precedent for the next proposal. Harold's SIM is to be an "interdisciplinary language major." The proposed program meets and even surpasses the technical requirements in terms of the number of units, units at the 200 level and above, and upper level units. Harold met with her three faculty advisors to work through the "molding" of the refined proposal. Her statements express the SIM and its educational goals, as well as why existing majors do not meet these goals and the proposed SIM does. The subcommittee unanimously recommends approval of Harold's SIM.

**ACTION: Kirkpatrick M/S/P approval of the SIM language major for Erin Harold.**

Note: This motion passed with one ABSTENTION.

Cannon asked how the SIM appears on, for example, a transcript. Tomhave replied that "Special Interdisciplinary Major" appears on the transcript and in the Commencement program.

HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE. Goleeke reported that the subcommittee met to consider, and recommends for approval, Classics 231 - Greek and Roman Epic: Genre and Meaning, proposed by Molly Pasco-Pranger. Following an exchange with the subcommittee, Pasco-Pranger resubmitted the proposal; and the subcommittee was "more than satisfied" and felt this to be a "very valid course."

**ACTION: Goleeke M/S/P acceptance of Classics 231 - Greek and Roman Epic: Genre and Meaning for the Humanistic Perspective core.**

Stevens observed that the committee seems to keep adding courses to the core and asked if the University is "losing" any core courses. Bartanen said that the University does lose core courses, as when faculty members teaching unique courses retire. Among all core areas, the University is "most short" of core courses in Humanistic Perspective and Comparative Values.

*Minor.* As promised at the committee meeting of 21 October 1998 in connection with approval of the Physical Education (Exercise Science) five-year departmental review, Bartanen and Washburn reported back to the committee on the search for legislation governing the minor. Allen Bagwell searched relevant minutes of Faculty Meetings and can find no definitive faculty legislation of the five-unit (minimum) optional minor. Washburn observed that the minor seems inherent to the initiation of the "unit" system of academic credit, but no legislation seems in view. If faculty members believe discussion of the minor is necessary, they can bring it up. (The committee took no action in this matter.)

*Spring 1999 meeting time.* Consideration of varied possibilities for the committee's meeting time in spring 1999 included a "straw vote" favoring Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

**At 5:35 p.m. Stevens M/S/"P" that we adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne W. Barnett  
4 December 1998

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