

Curriculum Committee Minutes

March 26, 1998

Attending: Bartanen, Bruce, Cannon, Fields, Fikes, Goleeke, Hooper, Kline (chair), Mehloff, Morgan, Neshyba, Proehl, Washburn

Meeting called to order by Kline.

Fields moved to accept minutes, motion seconded. Cannon asked that his name be removed from statement attributed to him in the discussion of the Humanities Review at the last meeting. Washburn volunteered to correct this attribution for the record.

Minutes approved.

Announcements: Morgan and Fikes announced that they would be leaving the university at the end of the current year. Committee members expressed their regret at these departures of their valued colleagues.

Humanities Sub-Committee Report: Goleeke brought the Humanities Review back to the committee. The motion to approve this review had been tabled until this meeting. He responded to two questions that the CC had asked him to relay to Rob Garratt, author of the review and Humanities chair. Garratt clarified who was on the Humanities Advisory Board and the procedures by which the Humanities report was drafted, circulated and revised. After a brief discussion regarding the status of the HAB, the motion to approve the Humanities Review was unanimously passed.

Religion Sub-Committee Report: Neshyba presented the sub-committee's review of the Religion Department's Quinquennial Review and moved acceptance of their review. Motion seconded. Prior to making this motion, Neshyba noted three sub-committee concerns with the review. First, that Rel 363 (History of Christian Traditions) was replacing two other courses on the topic (Rel 361 and 362) and that the single course might not represent an exhaustive enough background to satisfy the needs of the major. He reported that through discussion with the department chair that the committee's concerns were relieved. Second and third, a concern with the heavy core load shouldered by the Religion department and the observation that the number of courses offered by the department is large compared to other departments. Although the committee wanted to note these concerns for the record, they did not stand in the way of their recommendation to approve the review.

Bartanen noted that the sub-committee was not recommending approval at this time of Rel 109 (Moral Wisdom), Rel 225 (Bible and Religious Ethics), Rel 325 (Ethics: Method & Cont. Issues) pending completion and final approval by the CC of syllabi. Kris noted that the review also proposed some changes in course numbering: e.g.-- Rel 107 becomes Rel 207.

Mehloff asked for elaboration on why the ratio of courses offered to number of instructors is higher for this department and whether or not all of the proposed courses could be offered in the three year time frame. Neshyba replied that new faculty members would have a fairly high number of new courses to prepare, but that it was possible to make these offerings within the three year cycle. Hooper stated that the sub-committee had brought these concerns to Edwards' attention and that he would take them under advisement.

A discussion followed on the both the number of course offerings and on whether or not the department was sacrificing the needs of the major for the core, as well as whether or not the impetus for multiple core offerings came from within the department or from outside the department. The discussion suggested multiple causes or, in the words of Edwards, that the department serves "many masters." Hooper suggested that finally the movement toward multiple core offerings was more from within the department than without.

Bartanen noted that Rel 363 had one year approval, pending a fuller course proposal.

Cannon provided an amended motion: that the CC approve the Religion Department Quinquennial Review with two qualifications: 1. Rel 109, 225, and 325 are not included in the final review package; 2. Approval for Rel 363 is for one year only; permanent approval is pending a more complete syllabus.

The motion as amended by Cannon and seconded by Fields was unanimously passed.

Comparative Values Sub-Committee Report: Hooper reported on the proposal to accept Rel 370 (Images of Evil in 20th C. Fiction) as a CV core. The sub-committee asked the faculty member submitting the proposal to review more carefully the core guidelines and re-submit the original proposal. The proposal was extensively revised to the sub-committee's satisfaction. Hooper moved approval of Rel 370 for the Comparative Values core. Seconded and unanimously approved.

Core Assessment: In the final minutes of the hour, Kline distributed a sub-committee plan for Pilot Assessment of the Core to take place this spring. She, Fields, and Fikes explained the assessment plans for (respectively) Communications I (Focus Group and Application Questions), Fine Arts (Likert Scale and Application Questions), and Science in Context (Likert Scale and Application Questions). Discussion focused on which classes would be involved in the Pilot Assessment (e.g.--classes currently being taught by Fields and Proehl) and on who would be responsible for reading and scoring the student responses. Kline invited calls or e-mail responses to these proposals and concerns.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Proehl